



## THE JOKER

Black Country's rising comedy star



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## BAB BOON

There's a cute new arrival at the zoo



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## I do need to be less naive, says UKIP MEP

THE MEP and councillor at the centre of a row for telling aspiring politicians to look at Adolf Hitler's speaking style has said he needs to be less 'politically naive' and more 'mature'.

Bill Etheridge was embroiled in a storm of criticism after it was revealed he had used the Nazi leader as an example when leading a seminar for budding UKIP politicians in Birmingham.

The West Midlands MEP, who was elected to Brussels in May, is also a councillor in Dudley representing Sedgley.

The 44-year-old denied telling members of Young Independence they should copy Hitler.

It is not the first time he has got into trouble. He was suspended from the Conservative party in 2011 when, as a member of the Campaign Against Political Correctness, he and his wife Star posed with golliwog dolls.

"I need to be less politically naive," he told the Express & Star. The Chronicle's sister newspaper.

"I sold steel for 20 years and I've been an elected politician for just a few months."

"I'm still a novice as a politician but I will be more mature in my discourse."

● Hitler row — Page 3

## Horses spark clampdown

A FRESH clampdown on horses left tethered on local authority land has been launched.

Council bosses in Sandwell say there has been an increase in the number of horses being left on open plots of land around Tipton, including on some housing estates. Concerns have been raised about the welfare of the animals.

In Dudley the council faces an issue with horses grazing on their land including Fens Pool in Pensnett and Buckpool in Brockmoor.

# DRAGONS MISS A BIG CHANCE

**DESPITE** his anti-ageing face cream being dismissed as 'poppycock' on Dragons' Den, John Richardson's business is now reaching a turnover of more than £1 million a month.

He has gone from strength to strength despite being rejected by the TV show entrepreneurs has now launched his second product, a 'lip plumper'.

It all started when the 41-year-old former pharmaceuticals salesman from Halesowen overheard a conversation between two women discussing the pros and cons of Botox while he was sat at a service station near Oxford.

It led to him designing a cream which works as a natural alternative but it proved unpopular with the Dragons' Den judging panel, featuring Duncan Bannatyne and Deborah Meaden, when he appeared on the popular show in 2011.

### Invest

They turned down the chance to invest.

After going ahead with his business idea, the £89.99-a-bottle Richibrown organic Nattox cream flew off the shelves.

It is now sold online to more than 50 different countries as well as in dozens of salons across the UK.

Mr Richardson said 12,000 of the £19.99 lip plumper, which is sold in the form of a 7.5ml lip gloss, had sold in just two days after it launched.

There was demand from 400 salons eager to stock the product.

The father-of-two, who grew up in Stourbridge and went to Pedmore Technology College, said: "I'm just an ordinary bloke from the

### By Heather Large

Black Country — it's crazy to think that I now have a skincare and cosmetics company.

"It has been absolutely phenomenal. I just listen to what ladies want and go from there."

"I never expected it to take off like it has. I think if you had seen me at school, you would have said I was the least likely person to be running a skincare and cosmetics company."

He explained: "The timing with the new product couldn't have been better because we were delayed getting it out so there was a huge demand by the time it was ready."

He is now working on his next product, an anti-inflammatory cream which he claims could benefit people with arthritis, and says he has already had interest from the NHS.

"I am just getting started but I could never of dreamt this would happen," he added.

His Nattox product, which uses natural ingredients, has been stocked by Boots and Selfridges.

He enlisted the help of his friend Dr Chris Vorster to develop the design and, after six years of testing, it was ready to go on the market.



John Richardson's scheme was not chosen by the Dragons' Den business gurus but his beauty products are a success

## Tributes paid to accident victim

TRIBUTES were this week paid to a cyclist who died in a road accident in Upper Gornal.

Friends described car worker Lorraine Rowson as a 'wonderful person'.

She died at the scene after her bicycle was involved in a collision with a lorry at the junction of Burton Road and Jews Lane on Friday.

Paramedics tried to save the 50-year-old mother-of-one but nothing could be done.

Elaine Hartland, deputy manager at Greenway House Residential Home, Lower Penn, where Mrs Rowson has worked for 14 years, said: "We are all in a state of shock. Lorraine was the

nicest person you could meet. She was kind and loving, which were qualities that came out in her work here."

"We are a small community with only 12 residents, so people get to know each other very well. She will be missed by everyone."

Mrs Hartland said Mrs Rowson was also an animal lover known for taking in unwell dogs and nursing them back to health.

She is survived by her husband and daughter, a 21-year-old university student.

Mrs Hartland added: "She was a very outgoing person, who was completely devoted to her family."

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Steve Parry said an ambulance and a paramedic arrived shortly after the accident.

"Sadly, it quickly became apparent to crews that nothing could be done to save the cyclist involved," he said.

"She was confirmed dead at the scene. The lorry driver was assessed by ambulance staff but did not require further hospital treatment."

Police are continuing to investigate the incident which happened at around 11.40am. Anyone with information should contact the Collision Investigation Unit on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

## Proposal to revive carnival in town park

PROPOSALS to revive Halesowen Carnival for the first time in more than 20 years have been revealed by campaigners hoping to boost trade and bring people into the town.

Campaigners want to recreate the carnival and stage a street parade next July to link in with the Black Country Day festival.

The bid has been launched by Rowley Regis resident Simon Walker who is hoping to use Huntingtree Park.

### Support

The carnival use to attract thousands into the town.

Mr Walker has enlisted the support of ward councillors including Stuart Henley to back the campaign and wants to form a committee next month.

Councillor Henley said: "We want to make it a big event for Halesowen and bring people back into the town again. It would bring the community together."

"It would work well alongside the Black Country Festival, that's why we are looking at the first couple of weeks in July."

The group has started up a Facebook page called Halesowen Carnival 2015 and plan to appoint a committee at a meeting on September 6 at the town library's Shensstone Theatre at 2pm.

## Doddy pledge over concert

VETERAN comedian Ken Dodd has vowed to hold a benefit concert backing the campaign to save Dudley Hippodrome.

The 86-year-old comedy legend has told campaigners to 'name the date' for his fundraising gig.

It has turned up the pressure on Dudley Council chiefs after the Liverpoolian funnyman described their plans to tear down the landmark building on Castle Hill as 'shattering and devastating'.

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# Fizzogs to take on Riverdance routine

MORE than 300 people have voted in a poll to decide the next tune that the Fizzogs dance to – and Riverdance topped the chart.

The routine made famous by Michael Flatley came out on top ahead of Michael Jackson's Thriller and Blurred Lines by Robin Thicke.

The performers have won legions of fans around the world with their 'dancing grannies' videos and, for

their next internet hit routine, Susan Hawkins, Jacky Fellows, Deb Nicholls, joined by fellow comedian Emma Rollason, will take inspiration from the Emerald Isle.

The poll was on the Express & Star's entertainment website Native Monster. Riverdance grabbed more than 22 per cent of the results. They will release a video of the routine on the internet this week.

Deb, aged 42, from Wollaston, says the performers from Fizzog Productions, based in Dudley, are happy with Lord of the Dance.

"We can't thank people enough. It's going to take some doing but we'll be rehearsing hard straight away to give a showstopping performance," she said.

"I think we'll rope in the help of our very own Lord of the Dance,

our fellow comic James Collins, for a star turn."

The Fizzogs have been attracting attention on the internet for a dance routine which sees them jiggle to Flo Rider's 'Low' and 'Single Ladies' by Beyonce. The performance at Stourbridge Carnival, which has more than 2.7 million likes on Facebook, finishes off with Bhangra music and Psy's Gangnam Style.

# Jobs lost as baby store is going mainly online

**BABY** and nursery specialist Kiddicare will shut its branch at Dudley's Merry Hill Centre next month with the expected loss of around 100 jobs.

It is one of 10 stores around the country closing on September 7.

The store opened in October 2012 in the former Best Buy premises in a move which created 106 jobs. The chain was previously owned by Morrisons but was bought by Endless, a Leeds-based private equity firm, for £2 million last month.

The new owner is shutting its 'loss making stores' to enable it to concentrate on the online side of the business.

Garry Wilson, managing partner at Endless said: "It is a difficult situation with store closures. But every store is heavily loss-making.

## Surgery

"We're not closing stores for the sake of it. We've been tasked with performing surgery.

"Fundamentally Kiddicare is a good e-commerce business and we need to make sure it's not dragged down by the heavily loss-making stores."

A spokesman added: "After appropriate consultation within the business it was decided to close the 10 former Best Buy stores that trade as Kiddicare. This will happen on September 7.

"The online business and Peterborough store will continue to trade as normal."

Among the services offered by the Merry Hill store is a children's soft play area, a Starbucks coffee shop and free car seat fitting and pushchair servicing.

Kiddicare, which had sales of around £80m in the last financial year, was founded in 1974. Morrisons bought the business in 2011.

Kiddicare took over the 40,000 square feet unit at Merry Hill in 2012.

## Irene celebrates 106th birthday



Irene Golding celebrates her 106th birthday with her son David Golding in Oldbury

SHE has survived two world wars, including the bombing of her childhood home, and now Irene Golding is believed to be Sandwell's oldest resident at 106

Born on August 8, 1908 – six years before the outbreak of the First World War – Irene celebrated her birthday with a party at Beechcroft Residential Home in Oldbury.

Irene's family home was in Coplow Street, Ladywood, but the family was forced to leave when the area was bombed in the Second World War. They moved to Wilson

Road, Oldbury, where Irene lived until June this year.

Having started work aged 14, she spent most of her working life at Chance Brothers glassworks, Smethwick, working in an office. The mother-of-one, grandmother-of-one and great grandmother to two, continued a busy lifestyle in retirement which included looking after her own mother. Proud son David, 68 from Smethwick, said: "Mum's motto is hard work, good food and keeping active."

# FA chief's Astle vow as family talks held

THE FA has pledged to continue working with the family of West Bromwich Albion legend Jeff Astle as it researches the effects of head injuries in the game.

The move comes after Greg Dyke, chairman of the football governing body, met Mr Astle's wife Laraine Astle, and her daughters Claire and Dawn, on Sunday.

The Astle family were joined by Dr Willie Stewart who explained findings from a recent re-assessment of Mr Astle's brain.

## Boxers

The 59-year-old's brain disease, chronic traumatic encephalopathy, was linked to repeatedly heading the ball throughout his career.

New tests confirmed that he died in 2002 from the same disease which is found in brain-damaged ex-boxers.

Mr Dyke said: "This is an important matter for football to address. It was a constructive meeting and I thank the Astle family for their efforts in bringing this to my attention.

"We will keep in touch with the family and have outlined our plans to look at what research is needed next and take the subject forward on a global level."

## Little theatre stage big play

A THEATRE company is opening its 68th season with a play filled with romance, intrigue and jealousy set during one long day in the garden of a grand house.

Dudley Little Theatre is performing Ring Round The Moon by Jean Anouilh, translated by Christopher Fry, from September 10 to 13 at Netherton Arts Centre. Tickets for the 7.30pm shows cost £7 (£6 for concessions) and there is a 10 per cent discount on block bookings.

To book call 0870 320 7000 or visit the [www.dudleylittletheatre.org](http://www.dudleylittletheatre.org) website.

## Express profits

NATIONAL Express has seen its bus operations, which dominate in the West Midlands, bringing in more cash over the first half of the year. The company based in Birmingham saw revenues rise by two per cent to £137.7 million with profits higher at £15.3m.

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## More face fines over school term absences

MORE than 2,500 fines have been handed out to parents in the Black Country and Staffordshire for taking their children out of school during term time in the last two years.

Over half of them have been dishd out in the last year after new legislation came into force in September giving headteachers the power to only grant term-time absences in exceptional circumstances.

The move has proved controversial across the country with a number of parents being hauled before the courts for refusing to pay the fines. Each parent faces a £60 fine per child for breaching the rules — increased to £120 if not paid in full in 21 days. They face court if they don't pay by 28 days.

The fines handed out in this region 1,501 were in the last year. The year 2013/14 saw a rise of 434 from the previous 12 months on penalties dishd-out.

Figures show Dudley dealt out 224 fines in 2012/13, increasing to 248 in 2013/14. Sandwell fines increased from 15 in 2012/13 to 87 in 2013/14. In Wolverhampton fines rose from 125 in 2012/13 to 303 the following year.

## Tab is going on Summer Holiday

A MUSICAL society is looking for people to follow in the footsteps of Cliff Richard by joining its new production of feel-good 1960s musical Summer Holiday.

Tab Operatic Society is recruiting members to take part in its production of the show in March at Brierley-Hill Civic Hall. The group is looking for five male and five female lead performers, as well as dancers and singers for the chorus. Auditions will be held at Dudley Wood Methodist Church Hall, Quarry Road, on Sunday. Call Audrey Henwood on 01384 393196 or Elaine Vine on 0121 550 7254.

## Tenants meet

A SERIES of tenants and residents association meetings (TRAs) are being held across Dudley borough.

The Corbyns Bromley TRA and Parkes Street TRA, both in Brierley Hill, will meet on Monday and Thursday, August 21 respectively. Call (01384) 815168.

# MEP refuses to resign over Hitler comments



UKIP MEP Bill Etheridge

A UKIP MEP from Dudley who urged young party candidates to study Adolf Hitler's public speaking style says he regrets his comments about the Nazi leader but is refusing to resign.

Bill Etheridge, also a Dudley councillor, claimed his speech was taken 'out of context' and denounced the furor which has followed it as 'political opportunism'.

The 44-year-old, elected to Dudley Council and the European Parliament in May, said he 'regrets' mentioning the 'Nazi leader' in a

speech where he described Hitler as a 'forceful public speaker'. Mr Etheridge made two speeches to UKIP's Young Independence Conference in Birmingham earlier this month.

He told them: "Look back to the most magnetic and forceful public speaker possibly in history. When Hitler gave speeches, at the start he walks, back and forth, looked at people, he waited minutes just looking out at people, fixing them with his gaze. And then, when he started speaking they were hanging on his

every word. I'm not saying direct copy, pick up little moments."

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed of Dudley Council described the comments as 'unbelievable' and called on police to investigate.

But Mr Etheridge said: "It is just political opportunism. I will not stand down." Although he did regret his comments in the context of what has happened since.

"I speak about a range of figures in my seminar including Martin Luther King, Ronald Reagan, Hitler and Tony Blair. At no point do

I endorse their policies or beliefs, I simply point out their specific styles of public speaking.

### Monster

"I always refer to Hitler as an evil monster. So this is an outrageous smear on me. I'm a Black Country lad and we don't stand for bullying."

A UKIP spokesman said: "Bill gave a seminar on public speaking and highlighted great speakers as people whose style, not content, could be studied."

# Petition launched over shake-up of bus routes

MORE than 100 people have signed a petition urging a bus operator to rethink plans to revise around a dozen services.

Bus passengers have voiced concerns after 12 routes were changed under a shake-up of services in Dudley and Sandwell by National Express.

Campaigner Stephanie Peacock, who is running at Labour's parliamentary candidate for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, has been contacted by concerned residents.

## Folk festival is put back to next May

A MUSIC festival in Stourbridge has been postponed until next year.

Stourbridge Folk Festival, which brings in hundreds of music fans to the town, was due to take place next month.

Star names including Scott Matthews, Lucy Ward and comedian Patrick Monahan were set to perform at the arts and music festival that was due to be held at Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone between September 5 and 7.

Officials are yet to reveal the reason behind the postponement but say they are planning for the event to take place next May instead.

In a statement, organisers said: "Our apologies to all concerned but due to circumstances beyond our control the event has been postponed and will be re-scheduled in May of next year."

All tickets will be re-funded through ticket company Wegotickets.

There are plans to move Patrick Monahan's show to Katie Fitzgeralds pub, in Envile Street.

## Kittens found in park need new homes



Joy Tomkins from Cats Protection in Halesowen with two nine-week-old kittens who are looking for homes

WITH their big eyes and cute expressions these couple of kittens are sure to find new homes.

But volunteers are hoping to re-home many more.

The Halesowen branch of Cats Protection have been inundated with kittens in recent weeks and they are starting a new campaign that began with a re-homing day that was held in the town on Sunday.

The event at St Hilda's Church came around two weeks after the group were told about a litter of eight

kittens seen in Tivdale Park. Group volunteers have busy rounding up the cats from the park in recent days and are now urging people to have their cats neutered so few kittens are left to roam.

### Think

The Kittens Are Having Kittens campaign is aimed to raise awareness among pet owners and makes special vouchers available towards vet bills.

One of the volunteers, Joy Tom-

kins, aged 63, said: "We are finding more and more cats just a few months old becoming pregnant and having their own litter of kittens but being unable to cope.

"We are asking people to think and having their cats neutered with our campaign.

She added: "When we saw the litter in the park we were amazed.

"We have been chasing them around for days. It is getting ridiculous." People can get vouchers towards vet bills by calling 07773 270691.

## Friends arranging fun day in the park

A SUMMER fair will take place in Dudley on Sunday, organised by the Friends and Residents of Buffery Park.

The event was originally scheduled to take place in July but had postponed due to bad weather.

Attractions will include a classic car display, a land train, rodeo bull, bouncy castle and orb football. There will also be an array of food being served up.

Anyone who would like a stall can contact secretary Lynn Horton on 07857043096 or email bufferypark@yahoo.co.uk

## Historian looking at 1940s and 50s

A HISTORIAN will be giving a talk about cultural changes in the 1940s and 1950s.

Alan Thornton is the guest of Wordsley Townswomen's Guild for the event on Monday at 10am.

He will be hosting the event at Wordsley Green Community Centre, Wordsley.

His talk will encompass the war years, rationing and the thriving 1950s music scene.

Entry is £2.50 and that includes refreshments.

## Zoo chief attends tourism meeting

CHIEF executive of Dudley Zoo Peter Suddock attended the inaugural meeting of the newly-formed Tourism Council.

Mr Suddock was at the conference to look at ways to improve the industry and help support businesses. Other member organisations include VisitBritain, Hilton Worldwide, Whitbread Hotels and Restaurants, Easyjet, Google and Eurostar.

## Name is brought back for new road

A NAME for a new road being created as part of a housing development in Kingswinford has been chosen.

Five homes are being built off Mount Pleasant by developer Regency Homes Ltd. The road will be called Hazelmere Gardens reflecting the former name of nearby Glynne Primary School.

## Elvis is in the pub

CUSTOMERS are being encouraged to dress up as Elvis Presley to join rock 'n' rollers at Sedgely pub The White Horse, in Dudley Street, when an Elvis tribute act performs on Sunday at 7pm.

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



I HAVE just bought one of the 888,246 ceramic poppies planted at the Tower of London to mark the centenary of the First World War. I urge you to do the same before they are snapped up by spivs. Today's cherished souvenir has a nasty habit of becoming tomorrow's earner on eBay.

BACK in 1914-18, people would have been pleased and surprised that their sacrifice was remembered, 100 years on, by the sale of such poppies to support military charities. Mind you, the shilling-a-day soldiers of the First World War would have been even more surprised that the price of a ceramic poppy was £25.

AFTER my item on the use of pigeons to carry messages in the First World War, a reader asks if these intelligent birds were ever used in a military coo.

IT seems, little by little, the Government is paying the way for genetically modified (GM) foods, even though polls repeatedly show most people are against the stuff. We are told that the first GM crops "enriched with nutrients to improve health" will be harvested soon from a field trial in Britain. A crop of false flax has been tampered with so that its seeds will produce an oil rich in fatty acid which is normally only found in fish. They will feed this stuff to farmed fish. We will eat the fish. What could possibly go wrong? Our leaders have been well and truly lobbied by the massively rich and unstoppable GM industry. They have become what the Ecologist website wearily refers to as "Genetically Modified Politicians."

THE latest fishing-kit catalogue arrives at Chateau Rhodes offering camouflaged boots. You see the problem? Dammit, I definitely put them down here somewhere...

IF Boris Johnson is the answer, it must be a very, very strange question.

A READER rages about a think-tank report showing that spending on infrastructure is £5,426 per head in London but only £223 in the North East. There is a simple explanation. Londoners need the new £15,000 million Crossrail project. Geordies need a shed for the whippet.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Work on a £1.2m centre for new digital autopsies

**WORK has begun to set up a £1.2m centre where post-mortem examinations can be carried out without surgery.**

The centre, part of Sandwell Valley Crematorium, will use 3D scanners to determine cause of death without using a scalpel.

It's hoped this will make it less traumatic for bereaved families, who will be able to request a digital autopsy when the coroner requires a post mortem to be undertaken.

In deaths where a post mortem is not required by the coroner, families can also request a digital autopsy for peace of mind or as a record marking the end of a life.

The site would also be used by pathologists from across the West Midlands to quickly and accurately determine cause of death.

The centre is being funded by iGene, who will also train and support pathologists to use the new technology.

When it opens in October, it will be the first of its kind in the West Midlands.

Ash Govind, Global Vice President for iGene, said: "Digital Autopsy offers a significant humanitarian step forward in establishing the cause of death using software rather than a scalpel. We are delighted to have signed the agreement with Sandwell Council to bring digital autopsies to the West Midlands."

Councillor Mahboob Husain said: "As an authority we have been committed for

**By Heather Large**

some years to developing the best possible services for the bereaved."

He added: "Combining our Coroners, Bereavement and Registration services into a single service to support families. The addition of this ground-breaking technology is an important step in this journey."

"Having the international company, iGene, choose Sandwell as its partner to provide a Midlands centre of Excellence in Digital Autopsy confirms we are delivering the right services for bereaved families in Sandwell. Furthermore families of the Black Country and the wider Midlands will also benefit from this wonderful facility."

In March a £388,000 revamp of Sandwell Valley Crematorium in Newton Road was approved to provide a space for more than 100 mourners.

## Image released after sex attack



A CCTV image of the suspect

A MAN is being sought by police after a woman was sexually assaulted on a bus. CCTV images have been released of the suspect.

The victim, aged 39, was travelling on the number nine from Birmingham to Halesowen when a man boarded in Bearwood. He sat next to her and sexually assaulted her during the journey and again as she got off the bus at Halesowen.

Detective Sergeant Emma Holder said: "The man also left the bus in Halesowen after the woman challenged him about his behaviour."

"Inquiries have been carried out in the area to locate the offender and officers remain on the lookout for him. We are particularly keen to trace the man in these images as we believe he may be able to help us with our inquiries."

The incident happened at about 1.30pm on July 3.

The attacker was described as white, around 5ft 6in tall, of a stocky build and with short dark hair.

Get in touch with police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## Councillor hoping to become a UKIP MP

A LONG serving councillor has announced plans to step down from his role to make a bid for a seat at Westminster.

Ken Turner, aged 72, recently joined the UK Independence Party and was successful in regaining his seat on Dudley Council last May.

But the Halesowen councillor says he will stand as a parliamentary candidate in Walsall South at the next election and adds that his age will be no barrier.

### Decade

It comes as 81-year-old Labour MP David Winnick plans to stand again for election in his neighbouring Walsall North constituency.

Mr Turner was formally a Conservative councillor for a decade before he left the party.

He and his wife and fellow councillor Hazel stood down from the Tories on Dudley Council last December.

The couple left after an internal party row in which claims and counter-claims of 'bullying' were exchanged.

They had been Conservative party members since they were first elected in 2002 and 2003.

Mr Turner said he will begin campaigning shortly for UKIP in Walsall South, a seat currently held by Labour's Valerie Vaz.

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For many of the thousands of patients cared for at the Denture Clinic, their journey to find a solution at the Dudley practice has been a long one.

For some, their research is thorough and they walk through the doors clutching folders full of newspaper cuttings of life-changing dental narratives.

Others arrive out of desperation, having dispatched their prosthetics into the back of a drawer as hopelessly unsuitable.

And there are those who have delayed their decision-making for years, frozen by fear of the dentist or "just waiting for the right time."

Although every case and treatment plan is unique, there is chorus of agreement amongst many of the clinic's patients. According to principal Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353 they wish they had sought the clinic's special interest expertise earlier.

**Come and meet our dentist Polly**

As part of improvements for the patient experience at North Street a general dentistry practice works alongside the denture prescribing team.

"This one-stop service has always been the case, but people are still finding out about North Street Dental Clinic," said principal Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng) GDC108353.

Dental surgeon Polly (GDC No 188090), a Doctor of Dental Medicine with a particular interest in restorative, cosmetic and paediatric fields, looks after the patients. She joined the team in Dudley after working in Michigan at one of America's most prestigious cosmetic dental centres.

A dental plan practice, it offers everything from a simple filling to complex restorative procedures and implant dentistry. Initial consultations are complementary.

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**"There are people whose lives have been massively compromised by failing teeth and dentures," he says.**

A catalogue of clinical therapies are available, including the popular Suction Solution dentures. Prosthetics are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices built into the prescription. A clever diaphragm principle, triggered by bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a "sucking" vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthetic.

With more than 30 years' experience, the Denture Clinic, based in North Street, has encountered some heart-rending accounts of how ill-fitting teeth have dislocated lives.

There was the case of a mother who travelled to the Caribbean for her son's dream wedding. Ashamed of her teeth, she didn't have the confidence to be part of the album shoot.

She's due to make a return trip to Runaway Bay and in her words: "Guess who now won't be frightened to have their picture taken?"

Then there was the consummate actress - a lady in her 70s who, for the majority of her life, made excuses not to socially engage, terrified her teeth would fall out. She was able to stop living a lie.

"We had a health professional, an enthusiastic singer, who quite literally found a new song in her life," says Steven.

There was the remarkable case of a patient who had been tormented by crippling trigeminal nerve pain for years. "With the clever use of implant denture fixing points she is now totally free from pain," he adds.

"There are so many cases where our clinical intervention has had a hugely beneficial lifestyle impact. There was a larger-than-life couple - the husband had not a single tooth in his head - that came for help. We were able to craft some high-quality dentures and within days he was putting on weight and eating peanuts," he recalls.

"My work here is hugely rewarding, the clinicians are highly skilled and support team totally committed to a vision of excellence.

"Everything is pretty relaxed and we are happy to find time to just talk to people if they want to know what we can do for them."

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## Bail given to murder charge woman

A 24-year-old woman jointly accused of murdering a grandmother in her Halesowen home has been granted bail.

Chantelle Moran-Stokes is charged with killing 80-year-old Cynthia Beamond, who lived in Juliet Road, Howley Grange.

The pensioner was found dead in the garage of her home two days after she was reported missing.

Moran-Stokes was given bail during an appearance at Wolverhampton Crown Court and it is subject to a number of conditions.

She was told that she would have to provide a security in the sum of £12,000 and reside in Sandfield Avenue, Small Heath, Birmingham.

She has also been told to report to police twice a week and was made the subject of a night-time curfew.

Other conditions include not going within five miles of Juliet Road and having no contact with her fellow accused.

Barnes, 32, of Runcorn Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham, faces the additional charge of a second murder at an address in Belzite Park, London, where the body of 67-year-old Philip Silverstone was discovered.

Both Moran-Stokes and Barnes are due in back in court on October 10.

# Pothole fixing project is under way across borough

**TWENTY-FIVE roads across Dudley will be repaired after more than £500,000 was awarded to fix potholes.**

The Government grant of £567,000 is the largest awarded in the West Midlands and will be used to in a 10-month project. The work began in June and the funding must be spent by March 2015.

Borough transportation boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "Dudley has embarked upon a major programme of pothole repairs using a new approach called planer potholes where damaged surfaces are removed with a small planer attachment that only removes the minimum material required for repair. This approach reduces material costs."

"Work started very quickly as a condition of the money is that it is used in the next year," he explained. "We are making sure we consider the right timing with the weather and the least disruption to road users."

"We are very pleased with the money. It is very welcome amongst the cuts. "We need enormous funding for the roads. The officers did really well in putting our successful bids together."

Potholes are accessed within 24 hours of being reported and, if dangerous, work is undertaken as soon as possible.

Roads to be fixed are: Bisell Way, Quarry Bank; Blackbrook Road Netherton; Catholic Lane, Sedgley; Fieldview Close, Coseley; Hartside Close, Hayley Green; Heath Street, Stourbridge; King Street, Wollaston; Leabank Road, Halesowen; Leander Row, Wollescote; Leys Close, Pedmore; Lindale Crescent, Quarry Bank; Maidendale Road, Kingswinford; Mancroft Close, Kingswinford; Marbury Mews, Brierley Hill; Marine Gardens, Wordsley; Oldnall Close, Cradley.

Also on the list are Pedmore Lane, Pedmore; Pervale Grove, Coseley; Prescott Road, Oldswinford; Prices Road, Lower Gornal; Rokewood Close, Kingswinford; Talbot Street, Brierley Hill; Talbot Street, Lye; Vicarage Close, Brierley Hill; Woodfield Avenue, Wollescote.

## Black Country flag flies on Ben Nevis



Dudley North MP Ian Austin, left, with the group who flew the Black Country flag on the misty summit of Ben Nevis

THE Black Country flag was at the top of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest peak, after a group of fundraisers reached the summit to honour a peace campaigner from Dudley. The group including Dudley North MP Ian Austin climbed the mountain in eight hours to raise funds for charities.

Mr Austin was joined by the Mayor of Dudley's consort Councillor Adam Aston, deputy mayor Councillor Steve Walther and armed forces champion Councillor Dave Tyler. More than

£2,500 has been collected so far by the group which visited the peace cairn built by Bert Bissell to mark VJ Day in 1945. It is Britain's highest war memorial. Mr Bissell visited the cairn more than 100 times. The Christian peace campaigner from Dudley died aged 96 in 1998.

Mr Austin said: "We had a tough climb in awful weather but it was all worth it when we saw Bert's memorial at the summit and planted the Black Country flag"

The group also visited Mr Bissell's grave which lies in the shadow of the mountain.

Half of the donations will go to Action Heart and Guide Dogs with the rest split between the children's ward at Russells Hall, Royal British Legion and Black Country Fast Aid for local ambulances. Councillor Walther said: "It gave us a real sense of pride to see Bert's peace cairn at the top."

To support the good causes, go to [www.berthbissellmemorialwalk.co.uk](http://www.berthbissellmemorialwalk.co.uk).

## Orry the sealion will be missed

A POPULAR resident of Dudley Zoo has died. The 22-year-old Patagonian sealion Orry recently after receiving veterinary treatment for 10 days up to his death. Hundreds of tributes has now been made on the zoo's Facebook page.

Orry, who weighed in at 405kg, was given a home at the zoo after being rescued from a circus in Belgium, aged two. Jill Hitchman, zoo spokesman, said: "The many special messages have prompted more than a few tears from the team. He will be missed by all."

Tributes included one from Laura Whitehouse, with a memory from a school trip in 2006. "Orry popped up and roared, scaring some of the boys, it was just the funniest thing. He always seemed to pose for the camera," she said.

## Council homes boost welcomed

A £6 million boost to build council homes in Dudley has been welcomed by the borough's housing boss.

Councillor Gaye Partridge said the priority would be to provide smaller properties and homes suitable for older people and those with disabilities.

A total of 123 properties will be built in Dudley, Woodseton, Coseley, Sedgley and Kingswinford.

Dudley Council has been granted permission to borrow £6m from the Local Growth Fund Housing Revenue Account Borrowing Programme to fund the scheme.

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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

IN January 2012, I had a minor shunt in the car. Damage was limited to a broken number plate and a bit of bumper scuffing. Nobody was hurt, and I never at any point suggested it was anybody's fault but my own.

So why is it, more than two-and-a-half years later, I suddenly find myself inundated with phone calls from people telling me I am entitled to compensation from the injuries I received? One company, calling itself Access To Justice, has been particularly prolific. After every call, I have been assured that I have been removed from the database, and that I won't be hearing from them again. After probably more than a dozen calls, they finally seem to have gone quiet.

Interestingly, these characters have also come to the attention of an organisation called the Access To Justice Foundation, which has stressed that it has no connection to the calls.

"The activities of these callers are the subject of an ongoing investigation to identify the responsible company and take appropriate action," says the trust's website. I would like to have helped, but the calls always come from a withheld number, and they always seem very guarded about giving out any information about themselves.

So where did they get their inaccurate information from? Well a call from another similar company, this time called Pinpoint, let the cat out of the bag.

A few weeks earlier, I had used a company which said it would be able to get me a cheaper deal on my car insurance. I had been quite pleased with the service I received the previous year, getting my premium down from more than £400 to just £200. But this year it involved spending more than an hour on the phone with no end result.

Anyway, it transpires that by answering that company's questions, I had also unwittingly consented to having my answers sold on to other parties.

So if your car insurance is due for renewal shop around by all means, but make it clear that you do not consent to having your information passed on to anybody in the accident claims business.

□□□

A FEW weeks ago, I jokingly suggested that Deirdre 'White Dee' Kelly off Benefits Street must be on the Conservatives' payroll. Now it seems a think tank has booked her for the party conference.

Her agent Barry Tomes says: "Dee is very excited. She has lots of ideas about how to improve benefits."

You don't say. "Hopefully she'll get to have a drink with Mr Cameron."

Now that I would pay money to see, Dee and Dave downing shots on the Carnage tour of Magaluf.

It would be like a proletarian version of the Bullingdon Club.



Robert Plant and Bev Pegg share a joke as they arrive



The service for Tommy at Hasbury Methodist Church



Tommy's widow Val with grandchildren, Daniel and Lucy

# Love and laughs at Tommy's farewell

'They will be writing about Tom in 100 years' time' — **ADAM GRINSELL** on the farewell to a comedy great

**"HE could make you luff at the drop of a hat" — as close friend Mel Thomas spoke at Tommy Mundon's remembrance service, more than 500 friends and well-wishers had a giggle.**

Mr Thomas said of the original Black Country comedian: "I will always remember the first joke I heard Tommy tell.

"He said 'looking at me, you wouldn't think I was an ugly child'."

Hasbury Methodist Church in Halesowen was full to bursting as those who knew him said goodbye to Thomas 'Tommy' Mundon last Wednesday.

The 80-year-old died in July, four months after celebrating his birthday, at Mary Stevens Hospice following a five-year battle with Parkinson's Disease.

## Stage

He was cremated in a private ceremony at Stourbridge Crematorium, before his family joined all those wanting to pay their respects at the church in Halesowen.

His remembrance service elicited laughs but it was also poignant and moving.

Before the service his widow Val, 62, said: "To most people he was someone who stood up on the stage being funny. But to us he was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. It was something quite special to be married to a guy like Tom. He was a bit out of the ordinary and a bit unique.

"He was always very witty. I could never outwit him because in an instant he would have a quip. Tom was always very modest but he did love performing



Tommy Mundon — king of the luffs and the Black Country's greatest comic

right from when he was a little tot. He was always a larger than life character.

"I met him in 1970 at a show, where he wasn't actually performing, at a club in Wordsley. He was not actually booked to perform but they sort of said 'come on up' and he went on stage.

"Tom was very kind and was quite shy really, because bear in mind, when I met him he was 36 and still lived with his parents. I just thought he was quite sweet really. We had some wonderful times together."

Tommy was forced to quit the comedy

every patient was a target," he said. "One of the patients after said to me that his visit was more therapeutic than a trolley-load of medication.

"Tommy wasn't just a legend, he was a very caring human being. He was a very proud family man, loyal and devoted to Val, a loving father and a caring grandfather. And Tommy loved his larger family, the general public."

Tommy was well-known beyond in his beloved Black Country and his name adorns the Comedy Carpet artwork in Blackpool alongside such as Tommy Cooper and Morecambe and Wise.

Following Tommy's death Ken Dodd, who was his close friend for more than 20 years, said: "He was a wonderful friend and a wonderful comedian. He was more than a comedian, he was a humorist, he knew all the Black Country stories. I admired him hugely."

Tommy spent some of his last days in Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice where he attended day therapy sessions.

At one stage he had to turn down the opportunity to go to a royal garden party at Buckingham Palace as he was so ill, so instead staff at the hospice put on their own garden party in his honour. Mr Thomas suggested that perhaps Tommy would have enjoyed that more.

Val added: "It was very comforting that he was at Mary Stevens Hospice. He loved going there and the people. He went to the day centre and it was a big comfort to know they looked after him.

"It is comforting to have had so many cards and letters from people who have said some wonderful things about him. It is a big loss to the family. It is a tough one and I'm doing my best."

Among those at the service were Led Zeppelin frontman Robert Plant, who features in his biography a photograph of Tommy and himself from his 60th birthday party, and fellow Black Country entertainer Bev Pegg. He said: "They will be writing about Tom in 100 years' time, stating that he was the greatest Black Country comedian ever."

## WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

ONE of the many buzz words kicked around by central government is 'localism' but it turns out to mean absolutely nothing.

Take, for example, the case of Sandwell Council and its stinging rebuke from the High Court over its attempt to stop itself funding 'benefits tourism'.

The Government decided it would be up to councils to decide how much, if any, discount on council tax they would offer to working-age people of limited means.

Under the Welfare Reform Act, the Government replaced council tax benefit with a grant. But it only covered 90 per cent of the bill, leaving councils to find or save the other 10 per cent. Some, such as Wolverhampton, came up with new models to charge a small amount of council tax. Others carried on as before, but just absorbed the hit.

Sandwell tried to be clever. It was prepared to take the hit but didn't want to cover the costs of new arrivals as well. So it introduced a 'residency test'. Although the example of benefits tourists from costly areas of London was given in court, the theory applied more locally.

Sandwell was effectively erecting a wall around itself to stop people from Wolverhampton or other nearby areas, where the cost was passed on to residents, from moving a few miles down the road where their annual bills would be less, at the expense of the residents already living there.

But it fell foul of the High Court. And now it's left the council licking its wounds to the tune of tens of thousands of pounds of legal fees. And it faces the headache of having to appeal or look at its system all over again. It also exposes the futility of the 'localism' agenda. Councils were given the power to decide how to cope with these changes themselves, but then the High Court can intervene and overrule the decisions of democratically elected councillors.

There are just three months left before the trust running Stafford Hospital gets dissolved.

After years of inquiries and efforts to turn it around, people in Stafford now face being left with a pale shadow of what they once had.

Thousands have marched through the streets in protest. Some even took to setting up tents to fight for a better alternative.

Kate Godfrey, Labour's candidate for Stafford in next year's General Election, thinks Tory incumbent Jeremy Lefroy should stand down and trigger a by-election to force the Government to take notice. He disagrees, saying it will leave Stafford without representation and anyone fighting for the hospital when it needs it most.

The political battle for Stafford will come next year. For now, campaigners have bigger things to worry about.

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## Car boot sales are a social event

I READ that the residents of Himley Road have elected a new councillor to fight their corner with a view to closing the Wednesday and Sunday car boots. I wish they would look at how people would recycle without car boots. First they would clamour to the internet. It would be so tedious trying to sell or buy with so much to wade through, people wouldn't bother. Then they could donate to the charity shops. These would be full to brim and nothing would have a value.

There is always the tip. The queue would be vast and people wouldn't wait. Who foot

the bill for removal? It would be the council. Their budget is overstretched, so to compensate the cost of many services would rise.

There are people who can only afford to buy from boot sales. They will find a way of obtaining their wants (crime would increase). I wish residents would think again. If they strolled around the boot sales they would see the attraction, not only to recycle but a social event that creates pleasure to young and old!

**M WARD  
Bilston**

## Games set a good example

WELL done Glasgow and Scotland for producing a fantastic Commonwealth Games.

They were brilliant. Now that we are going to be bombarded by football again, can I request that all managers make their players watch from start to finish the Commonwealth Games Men's cycle road race.

The weather conditions were foul, yet Geraint Thomas won it in style. It was a very fitting end to almost two weeks of compelling viewing.

It was great to watch competitors from countries with no facilities, and therefore no hope in their particular events, trying to bring pride to their people by finishing alone on the track, but still trying.

**P COLE  
Kingswinford**

## Bless kindness of strangers

I WRITE to pay tribute to the wonderful kindness of the people in and around Stourbridge.

I have serious health problems. I struggle to reach home with my shopping.

Time and time again strangers help me all the way home.

I have lots of falls and once again it is wonderful how help comes fast.

To say thank you is inadequate but I do bless everyone of you.

**B M ELWELL  
Green Street  
Stourbridge**

## Ebola is a threat to our island

ON reading several reports on the outbreak of Ebola, I, like I suspect many others, was concerned by the fact that many of the world's experts were worried that there was more than a slight chance that it might find its way into Europe.

Imagine my profound sense of relief on learning that our ever vigilant border control officers have been put on a heightened state of alert to try to intercept any would be carriers, thereby stopping it in its tracks.

Would this be the same set of border control personnel who somehow managed to mislay several thousand illegal immigrants in the recent past? Forgive me if I don't put much faith in their ability to keep this terrible disease at bay.

Let's make a concerted effort to secure our borders and keep them secure. Can anyone even begin to imagine what a rapidly spreading disease like Ebola would do to our little island? Pray God we never have to find out.

**B PARSONS  
Coseley**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street,  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### E-MAIL

Dudley.chron@  
expressandstar.co.uk

## Scots can't go it alone if keeping our currency

HAVING watched some of Scotland's independence debate on TV, it occurs to me that Alex Salmond has set himself up for a knockout blow.

Perhaps if Alastair Darling had thought a bit quicker on his feet, it could all be over bar the shouting.

Salmond's insistence that Scotland can exist as an independent country to rival any other small country is completely undermined by his equally strong insistence that Scotland should maintain sterling as its currency.

By keeping Sterling he is actually admitting that Scotland cannot be independent because it is incapable of supporting its own currency, a fundamental duty of any independent nation. Relying on Britain's cur-

rency makes Scotland's financial security completely dependent on Britain. Therefore it cannot be truly independent.

Mr Salmond is showing contempt for the rest of Britain by expecting us to underpin Scotland's economy using our currency without Scotland contributing. If British taxpayers are expected to provide such assistance, shouldn't the rest of Britain have a say in the referendum?

Mr Salmond bemoans Scotland being dictated to by a Tory government, but if his SNP had not taken votes from Labour and Liberals in the General Election, the Tories might not be in such a strong position now.

**M CLIFF  
Wall Heath**

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# Hundreds still help Harry to help others

**HUNDREDS** of people enjoyed a fun-filled family festival of activities organised in memory of well known young fundraiser Harry Moseley.

Merry Hill shopping centre welcomed families to the HarryFest event. Activities and games took place on a converted car park outside Eat Central at the Brierley Hill mall.

Harry Moseley, from Birmingham, died aged 11 from an incurable brain tumour in 2011.

But during his battle with the disease he set up the charity Help Harry Help Others which to date has raised more than £600,000 for research into the disease.

## Superhero

His family has continued the work Harry started and this weekend's event is part of the ongoing fundraising drive.

Youngsters were entertained with a fun fair, a superhero-themed photo booth, live music from pop singers, dancing, a roller disco, balloon modelling and face painting too.

Staff from various stores in the shopping centre also donned fancy dress for the two-day event that was held on Friday and Saturday at Brierley Hill helping to raise money for the Help Harry Help Others charity.

Among those joining the fun were hairdressers Jessica McKoy, aged 19, from Holly Hall, Dudley, and Jenna Fellows, 27, from Pensnett, who dressed up as superheroes for the event.

Jessica said: "It is a good event and we love to dress up anyway, so we absolutely loved it."

"We got some strange looks when going to get some food but it was great."



Mum Georgie Moseley with Brian Blackwell



In the pink — Maddison Edwards



Jessica McKoy, left, and Jenna Fellows

Harry's proud mother Georgie Moseley attended the event with her partner Brian Blackwell. They are doing a bike ride as part of a fundraising drive for the charity.

She said: "Harry had such a fun-loving nature, so this is a perfect event to celebrate his legacy as the charity



Bethany Wood, Luvleena Kau, Gaby Richardson continues to help those on their cancer journey."

It is not the first time Merry Hill has linked up with the charity to boost its fundraising efforts. Proceeds from the centre's Christmas Lights switch-on ceremony last December were also donated to the cause.

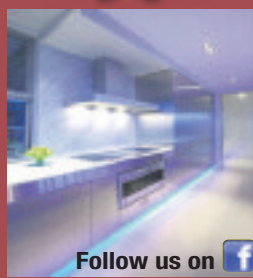
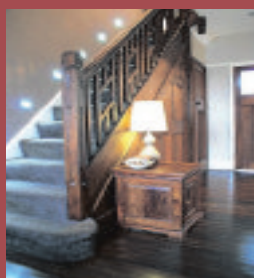
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# 100-year-old who looked after war evacuees dies



Elsie Bridgwater pictured with family as she celebrated her 100th birthday at Holloway Court, Halesowen, in June

**MAKING parts for Lancaster Bombers and caring for evacuees, Elsie Bridgwater did more than her bit for the war effort.**

The family of the great-great-grandmother have paid tribute to her after she passed away at the age of 100.

Mrs Bridgwater spent her final years in Holloway Court in Colley Gate, Halesowen, and was surrounded by loved ones to celebrate reaching her century in June.

She was born Elsie May Troughton in Stoke Prior, near Bromsgrove, and worked at the Rover plant in Longbridge. After the war she worked in a nursing home looking after disabled

children and adults. Her husband, George, was a lorry driver and air raid warden. The couple lived in a cottage in Belbroughton and had a daughter Maisie, who passed away 24 years ago at the age of 59.

As her funeral took place on Tuesday Mrs Bridgwater's granddaughter Melanie Morton, from Weston-under-Lizard, revealed how her grandparents had taken in three young boys evacuated from Birmingham during the Second World War.

Mrs Morton said: "They would get a little money for looking after them but it was never enough to cover the costs. So my grandmother went out to work on the land, picking potatoes and more in order to earn enough money to put

shoes on the children's feet. We did not find that out for many years until my father mentioned it to us, so we don't know any more about the boys or what happened to them. As well as that she worked at Longbridge on the parts that went into the Lancaster Bombers used in the Dambusters raid."

Mrs Bridgwater lived in Catshill before moving into residential care. Mrs Morton said: "All through her life she was the jolliest person."

Mrs Bridgwater leaves two granddaughters, Mrs Morton and Angela Hackett. Two other grandchildren, Susan Moor and David Hand, have passed away. She also leaves eight great-grandchildren and 16 great-great-grandchildren.

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New 'addict' courts could help families

A COURT which aims to support to the children of alcoholics and drug addicts should be brought to the West Midlands, family lawyers say.

The Family Drug and Alcohol Court was launched to get quick decisions in cases where families are affected by alcohol or drug misuse. It sits in London and Gloucester but is set to expand. Child care specialist Robert Pearce, partner and head of the children's law team at Midland firm Solicitors, said FDACs should be introduced across all family courts in England. He said research revealed 35 per cent of substance-affected mothers are reunited with their children through them, compared with 19 per cent in a normal family court.

Charity signs up to standards code

A HEALTH and wellbeing charity serving the Black Country is hoping to strengthen its work in the community after it signed up to a code of governance.

West Bromwich-based Kaleidoscope Plus Group has been working locally for more than 40 years. Now it has signed up to Good Governance: A code for the Voluntary and Community Sector to ensure everybody are working to the same set of standards.

Chief executive Monica Shafaq said: "Good governance is not only crucial for attracting funding but also demonstrating effectiveness and value for money. By signing up to this new governance code, I believe it strengthens our position."

# Donations plea to revamp the entrance at beauty spot

## AN APPEAL has been launched to raise money to enhance an entrance to Warley Woods.

Bosses say they want to improve Abbey Road access to the beauty spot as it is looking scruffy and they fear it may not give visitors the best impression of the site, which has been transformed with £1 million of Heritage Lottery cash since the 1990s.

They hope to replace the bollard-barriers, installed in a bid to stop the dumping and burning of cars on the site. These bollards had now 'become a challenge for visitors wanting to prove their strength, resulting in most being pushed and wobbled out of their housings'.

Under the plans, they would be replaced with smaller square bollards, similar to those in Lightwoods Park.

There are also proposals to spruce up the car park and install a flag pole to fly the park's Green Flag award at both the south and north entrances.

The cost of the work is expected to be around £4,200 and an appeal for donations has been launched.

Viv Cole, trust manager at Warley Woods Community Trust, said: "These improvements will form the next stage of the continual investment and development of Warley Woods by the Community Trust supported by our members and park lovers."

"It will keep our standards high and allow volunteers and staff to spend

By Heather Large

time on other maintenance work."

The park received a Green Flag award for the sixth year running this summer. They are given out by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy to reward the best parks and green spaces across the country.

Ms Cole said: "We are absolutely delighted to receive a Green Flag Award for the sixth year running from Keep Britain Tidy. This Award recognises and highlights that local people are benefitting from a green space of the highest quality. The Community Trust has been managing the site for 10 years now and its staff and volunteers are very proud of its track record."

The Warley Woods Community Trust aims to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the beauty spot, and have improved the site after decades of neglect.

To donate go to [www.warleywoods.org.uk](http://www.warleywoods.org.uk) or call 0121 420 1061.

## Couple's blooming lovely garden



Pick of the bunch — Don and Barbara Hall, of Abbingdon Road, Netherton, are pictured in their award-winning garden

THIS beautiful garden is Donald Hall's pride and joy and is proving a tonic as he fights his second cancer battle.

Mr Hall and his wife Barbara's oasis of calm and beauty has won competitions.

The couple's garden at their home, in Abbingdon Road, Netherton, is packed with everything from marigolds to begonias.

Mr Hall, whose wife Barbara, aged 72, is a retired florist, has used his garden as a place of comfort since his

prostate cancer diagnosis early this year. It comes after he battled back from tongue cancer in 2005.

### Diagnosed

The 75-year-old said: "Most people don't get to say this but this is the second time I have been diagnosed. I don't let it get to me and looking after the garden takes up a lot of my time."

The former car components inspector met his wife Barbara 10 years ago at Wood Farm Golf and Country club in Essington. Together they manage to

keep their beautiful garden in the best shape possible.

He said: "We have won first and second prize in this competition in previous years but it was absolutely beautiful to win it this year because I have put a lot of time into the garden."

"I have put over 20 hanging baskets up and spent a lot of time looking after the flowers and plants. Me and Barbara work together well, I do the planting and she does the dead-heading and watering. People always comment on how beautiful our garden is."

## Parking spaces boost to aid trade

PLANS are being drawn up for more free parking spaces in Stourbridge town centre to help boost trade.

Dudley Council is considering proposals for more spaces close to shops following calls from councillors to help businesses in the town centre.

Highways bosses have not yet revealed how many spaces could be created. There are currently around 100 spaces available in three streets in the town centre including High Street and Market Street.

Transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "Stourbridge has free on-street parking throughout the High Street, Lower High Street and Market Street and working with local councillors, plans are already in place to increase the number of free spaces to support shoppers and traders further."

"We hope to be in a position to announce this additional free parking shortly."

The announcement came as councillors Paul Bradley and Paul Brothwood started a campaign for extra free parking in Stourbridge. They are working with Jim Carver MEP, who was recently selected as UKIP's prospective parliamentary candidate in Stourbridge, on the scheme.

Councillor Brothwood said they want to revitalise local shopping areas. "As a local business owner I understand the frustrations of small businesses," he said.

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# Yam jokin ay yow? Ar I am, loffs comic Jonny

HE describes himself as an 'all Black Country bloke' who started writing 'daft songs' in his kitchen to make his mates and his family laugh.

But emerging comedy talent Jonny Cole says he has a wider audience in his sights as he reflects on the early stages of his life as a full-time comedian.

The Wednesbury comic is set to headline Birmingham's Glee Club on September 18, with top billing on the 12-date Black Country Night Out Tour to follow next year. His debut album and a DVD are due to hit the shops later this year.

It represents a meteoric rise through the comedy ranks for the 34-year-old. Until recently he was content to mix the occasional pub gig with a not-so-exciting working life of selling industrial supplies over the telephone.

Backed by a live band, Jonny's act features a mixture of songs and anecdotes based on his experiences of growing up in the Black Country.

It all started with a song he hastily wrote 'for a laugh' in a spare 20 minutes while he was having a cup of coffee in his kitchen. Wednesbury Song - which features the line 'and it do matter if yo cor read, as long as yo can drink and as long as yo can breathe' - became a Youtube hit four years ago, chalking up nearly 60,000 views.

The response prompted him to create a comedy routine that has since seen him have audiences in clubs across the Midlands loffin' their yeds off. "I had no act at the time. It literally was just one song done for a laugh," he said. "My dad found it funny and told me to stick it on Youtube and everything just happened from there."

Jonny continued to record songs in his studio at his home in Lloyd Street,

**Black Country bloke - Jonny Cole, who is now a full-time comedian**

Wednesbury, including his paean to the Black Country lad Yam Yam - a reworking of the Dizzee Rascal track Bonkers - and the Billy Joel-inspired Tipton Girl. He also sprinkles a touch of his comedy magic onto The Bangles' Walk Like An Egyptian, turning it into Drink Loike Yam From Tipton.

Earlier this year Jonny signed up with Brian Yeates Entertainment in a bid to take his act to the masses. His rise is not something his teachers predicted during his days as a pupil at Barr Beacon School in Walsall.

He said: "I was a bit of a joker and always good at messing around."

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# Double delight with music duos

## ALBUM REVIEWS

**GOOD** music is coming at the double this summer with three female duos producing contrasting but well-accomplished albums.

The relocation of Alabama siblings **The Pierces** to California has paid dividends with a classic West Coast feel to their forthcoming album **Creation**.

If breakthrough You & I was sunshine pop then Creation introduces a little melancholy shadow into their harmonious sound. Songs like Believe In Me and Honest Man could appeal to Fleetwood Mac fans, whilst Must Be Something and the gorgeous Elements even channel some Abba spirit. Catch Allison and Catherine at Birmingham Allee Club on September 24.

Feisty Glaswegians Stina Tweeddale (vocals/guitar) and Shona McVicar (drums) deliver punky power pop with plenty of 'don't mess with us' attitude on their swaggering eponymous debut **Honeyblood**. Killer Bangs delivers a sugar rush whilst I'd Rather Be Anywhere But Here shows their bittersweet side. They should raise the roof at the Hare and Hounds in Kings Heath on September 26.

**Ward Thomas** sound like the latest rising stars from Nashville but these 20-year-old twins are from Hampshire. Singers and songwriters Lizzy and Catherine impress with the honky tonk opener Push For The Stride and contemporary country toe-tappers on their debut **From Where We Stand**. Ward Thomas play Birmingham Glee with The Shires on November 4.

Irish singer/songwriter **Sinead O'Connor** marks 30 years making music with I'm Not Bossy, I'm The Boss, her most accessible and rocking album for many years. She's apparently rejuvenated on the cover (thanks to a wig



Heavenly harmony pop from sisters Catherine, left, and Allison Pierce

and figure-hugging rubber) but this is special because of the blend of vulnerability and maturity in her remarkably emotive voice. She hits her righteously strident stride on Take Me To Church and Streetcars makes a tender finale.

It's been a long wait for **La Roux's** second album, five years in fact, but Lily Jackson has finally delivered an excellent blend of disco and synth pop that surpasses her 1980s obsessed debut. **Trouble In Paradise** is short at nine tracks in just over 40 minutes, but boasts songs that do that deja vu familiarity trick, including Chic-like Uptight Downtown and Blondie flavoured Kiss And Not Tell. Catch her at The Institute in Digbeth on November 8.

Welsh pop maverick and sometime genius **Gruff Rhys**, formerly of Super Furry Animals, blends melancholy pop and rollicking rockabilly on **American Interior**, an eccentric concept album about the quest for a Welsh speaking Native American tribe. Be enlightened

when he plays Birmingham Glee Club on September 15.

**Charlie Simpson** finally escapes the shadow of his band Busted (he refused to join McBusted) with folk-tinted pop rock album **Long Road Home** which is a real grower with its memorable title track and the Mumford-like Comets.

International hit Budapest has catapulted **George Ezra**, a guitar-slinging singer/songwriter from Hertford with a smoky deep voice that belies his youth (he's 21), to the upper reaches of the album charts with his debut album **Wanted On Voyage**. He will be in concert at The Institute in Digbeth on October 25.

Escape to the 1950s exotica of **Les Baxter** on the Cherry Red reissue of his kitsch orchestral tunes inspired by tropical islands and the mysterious east. It features original lounge classic **Quiet Village** plus lots of bonus material. Pour yourself a Mai Tai and enjoy. **Leon Burakowski**

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# No mystery over the success of Mii

## 3DS GAME REVIEWS

A FEW years ago when the Wii games console came out, before we were breaking ornaments whilst playing virtual tennis or crashing off the sofa playing Mario Kart, it was the Mii that first hooked fans on Nintendo's new invention.

Much fun was had creating tiny little lookalikes, a source of much hilarity when based on friends and family. More fun was had when games were brought out for the Wii which you could import your Mii folk into.

Now the Mii's have a home of their own, not on the fast becoming redundant Wii but on the niche home of cute, the Nintendo 3DS.

**Tomodachi Life** is a whole world that you can populate with the tiny avatars and let them live out their own lives, Sim-like, although the overall feel of the game is more likely to appeal to fans of such gentle virtual worlds as Harvest Moon or 3DS mega-hit Animal Crossing.

In Tomodachi Life you can hone your Mii to perfection, either from scratch or with the (slight) help of a photo taken on the 3DS. You can also transfer them from Wii U via the Mii Maker or get them from other players via Local Play or QR codes.

You move your Mii's into an apartment block on an island which you get to name. You don't only tweak the look of the inhabitants, you can give them a voice and a personality... and then let them get on with it. But be warned, this is a lot more addictive than it sounds.

A little less addictive than it sounds is **Nintendo Pocket Football Club**. It is a back-to-basics football manager



Love blossoms for Mii and Mii girl on the island in Nintendo's Tomodachi Life

sim that uses retro style 8-bit visuals. Not deep or slick enough for a serious soccer nut, Pocket Football Club could keep younger footie fans occupied on a long car journey (an away match in the north-east or the west country maybe?) as you create your club from scratch, picking the name, the logo, the strip, the formation and then swapping players until you find the winning combination.

In the brief matches themselves you do not have complete control over your players, instead it's in the training that you will make them better footballers and finally reap your reward.

And when it comes to addictive Cut The Rope is one of the most habit-forming games around. Already popular as an app on smartphones and tablets, its arrival on the 3DS in the form of **Cut the Rope Triple Treat** is to be welcomed. Originally available to download, this retail version has enough extras to warrant the purchase.

Combining the original Cut the Rope with two enjoyable variations on the theme, plus cartoons featuring the cute sweet-swallowing Om Nom, it offers

many hours (around 50, it reckons) of brain-challenging game play. The idea is to work out where to cut the ropes to send the sweet tumbling into Om Nom's hungry mouth, but also picking the best combination to hit the most stars. It soon gets the brain smarting as you work out the physics involved.

**How To Train Your Dragon 2**, tied in with the summer hit movie sequel to the kids' cartoon about Viking dragon fliers, is a good looking game that lacks a meaningful quest.

The dynamics of the flying around the island of Berk are excellent, intuitively easy to pick up and the film fans can choose to take part as various characters from the movie. The graphics are also very good and this 3DS version seems very similar to the Wii U version.

Whilst there are lots of mini games to play, the flaw at the heart of this title is that it lacks a strong central quest to continue to motivate the player once the dragon flying loses its novelty and starts to, well, drag on.

Leon Burakowski

# star extra TRAVEL

## Sea of Poppies at the Tower of London

Discover the amazing history behind the world's most famous fortress which has been a royal palace, armoury, zoo and prison. See the precious Crown Jewels, and the legendary Beefeaters who guard the tower walls and tell grisly tales of days gone by. This is a remembrance break not to be missed!

The break begins with a visit to the Imperial War Museum which, to celebrate the anniversary of the First World War, will open new galleries and a redesigned atrium.

Admire the world's largest collection of Victoria crosses, see the biggest display of British First World War art in almost 100 years, and be inspired by the permanent works featuring stories of life during the Holocaust.

The highlight of the trip is the visit to the Tower of London, built by William the Conqueror and home of many exhibitions and royal artefacts. There is also the chance to discover how the tower was defended, via interactive displays.

There will be a commemorative poppy display, to mark 100 years since Britain's involvement in the First World War. The tower's moat will contain 888,246 ceramic poppies - one for each British and Colonial soldier who lost their life during the war.



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## 'Goldbury' plans Jodie celebration

OLDBURY'S Commonwealth Games star Jodie Stimpson will be honoured with a civic reception next month.

Jodie, who took the Glasgow 2014 games by storm by winning two gold medals, will be the guest of honour at the event organised by Sandwell Council on September 13. To coincide with the reception, the town will be transformed into 'Goldbury' for the day.

The public are urged to come out in numbers and there will be a host of sporty activities to take part in.

Revellers will also have the chance to meet Jodie who will be joined by other athletes who represented Sandwell at the Commonwealth Games.

Jodie, who won gold medals in the solo and mixed triathlon this summer, said she was thrilled at the news. "It's a real honour to have a civic reception held for me. I'm really excited and looking forward to seeing people from Oldbury and across Sandwell come out and join in the celebrations."

## Bill to meet baboon — not a funky gibbon



Billie the Baboon is the first of his kind born at Dudley Zoo

MEET baby Billie, the first Gelada baboon born at Dudley Zoo. Born July 8 to mum Addis and dad Ebano, Billie is named after conservationist and TV Presenter, Bill Oddie, who in the 1970s had a pop hit Funky Gibbon when one of comedy trio The Goodies.

Bill will be opening the zoo's £20,000 Baboons on the Bank exhibit at noon on Bank Holiday Monday, August 25.

### Watching

Head of Media and Communications at Dudley Zoo, Jill Hitchman, said: "Billie is gorgeous and is already very alert. He loves watching what is going on around him and is already starting to communicate with the other group members through facial expressions, which is how the species interacts."

The baby also shares the half-an-acre natural hillside enclosure with females, Jimma and Tana, who are taking it in turns as 'aunties' caring for the youngster.

The youngster then begin to gain independence at around five-months-old.

## Safari park helps new animal course

AN ANIMAL care course at Kidderminster Academy is due to start next month in partnership with West Midlands Safari Park.

It will be the first course of its kind in the region, which will see students studying for the Animal Care Level 2 Diploma spending one day a week at Kidderminster Academy and two days a week at the nearby safari park.

There, they will get the opportunity to work with snakes, spiders, armadillos and other creatures.

Rod Jones, at Birmingham Metropolitan College, said: "This is an exciting new partnership locally, the first in the region, which will see staff at the Safari Park offering hands on animal care and welfare advice as well as real life experience in a working environment."

"The course is fully accredited by City and Guilds and will prepare students for future careers in the animal care industry."

# Child porn pervert is spared prison term to get treatment

**A PERVERT who 'deserved' jail because of his haul of child porn has been allowed to remain free so that he can receive treatment.**

After his arrest, Jonathan Foster even exposed himself to a mother and her child as they walked past a bus on which he was a passenger.

Computer experts discovered that Jonathan Foster had downloaded almost 600 indecent images of children, of which nearly half were from the two most serious categories of pornography, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Police uncovered the stash in a swoop on the home of the 24-year-old in Anderson Gardens, Tipton, on October 18, 2012, said Mr David Lees, prosecuting. Various items of computer equip-

ment were seized and taken away for forensic analysis that revealed 599 still and moving indecent images of children - 287 of which were rated among the worst kind.

Mr Lees suggested the actual figure may have been much higher if entry had been gained to inaccessible parts of discs recovered from the property. Foster was arrested and, while on bail, indecently exposed himself to a mother and her two-year-old child in Blackheath town centre on March 29 of this year.

Mr Lees said the woman and child were on the pavement on the busy Saturday afternoon when the defendant exposed himself to them from a bus. He continued: "Fortunately a police car was nearby, allowing officers to board the bus and arrest him."

Mr David Houldcroft, defending, said: "He accepts he has a problem and needs help. He clearly has an unhealthy obsession."

Foster, now of Locarno Road, Tipton, pleaded guilty to 11 charges of making indecent images between January 2010 and October 2012 and indecent exposure. He was told by Judge Michael Challinor: "A prison sentence is deserved but I must follow the sentencing guidelines and they do not allow me to impose a sentence long enough to ensure your rehabilitation or keep you long enough to protect the public, particularly young girls."

Foster was given a three-year community order under supervision and must attend the community sex offender programme. He was put on the sex offender register for five years.

## Bowled over by beer choice

VISITORS to a cricket club are likely to be stumped for choice by the array of ales, ciders and perries on offer at its annual beer festival.

Around 80 drinks will be available at the Black Country Beer Festival at Lye Cricket Club from today to Saturday. There will also be live music throughout the weekend and a food marquee offering a range of dishes from pizza to faggots and peas. Visitors will also be able to watch cricket matches too.

Club chairman Dave Borley said the event is anticipated to attract up to 1,000 people over the three days and will support Lye and Wollescote branch of the Royal British Legion. The entrance fee is £10 with £2 off for Camra members, which includes drinks tokens, glass and a programme. The pavilion bar is sponsored by Stourbridge's Green Duck Brewery.

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## Shedding new light on museum of glass

WORK is to start on a new museum showcasing the Black Country's glassmaking heritage this autumn.

The £5 million redevelopment will see part of the former Stuart Crystal site, opposite the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley, converted into the visitor attraction anticipated to attract more than 500,000 people a year.

Site owners Complex Development Projects Ltd has now submitted plans to Dudley Council for the museum along with 18 apartments to be built on another part of the site, off Camp Hill.

It comes as they wait to hear the outcome of a bid for £2.15m from the European Regional Development Fund towards the project with the rest coming from grants.

The museum, which will have a modern glass front, is to face the Glass Cone. It will also pay homage to its past with a striking light sculpture representing where the old White House Glass Cone once stood.

The museum will showcase the borough's glass treasures and highlight the area's heritage through interactive displays. Proposals also include 18 apartments built on a separate part of the site and 11 commercial units.



Elaine Munnelly is concerned about the state of the graveyard at St Giles Church in Rowley Regis

## Relatives are concerned by overgrown state of graveyard

A CHURCH is calling for volunteers to help clean up its graveyard after concerns were raised about it becoming overgrown.

Elaine Munnelly, whose father, grandmother, sister-in-law and two cousins are buried at St Giles in Rowley Regis, is upset over the state of the graveyard.

The teacher from Oakham, Tiv-dale, said she does not want to take her 82-year-old mother Gwendoline to visit her father Alan Crompton's grave due to its condition. But those at the church have said they are doing all they can to remedy the situation and have asked for help.

Mrs Munnelly said she went in the spring with her mother and had a struggle to get to Mr Crompton's grave. After phoning the vicarage she was hopeful it would be cleared

but after a visit last week she is still concerned for the churchyard even though she can see some work has been carried out.

She said: "It's dwell overgrown. When I went last week I was horrified, it's a real shambles. I phoned the vicarage again and told them if my mum comes here she would be crying. We couldn't find a pathway without going through brambles."

Mrs Munnelly, who was christened at the church, said she had spent time cleaning her father's grave but added: "If someone is in a wheelchair they have got no chance."

A churchwarden said the probation service has been sending people to help. If anyone else would like to help, or have strimmers or a wood chipper, call 0121 559 1251.

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## Ambulance crew in an eight hour stint at A&E

AN AMBULANCE crew in the West Midlands was forced to stay at a hospital for more than eight hours because of a shortage of staff or beds.

Thousands of patients are left waiting longer than 30 minutes at accident and emergency departments to be handed over from paramedics to nurses every month. But the number waiting more than an hour has dropped.

Typically in cases where there may not be enough beds or staff to look after patients straight away they have to stay in the ambulance until the hospital is ready for them.

By Daniel Wainwright

waiting at A&E in the past two years was March 2013 with 10,245 patients in the region having to stay with ambulance crews for at least half an hour.

### Road

West Midlands Ambulance Service, said the eight-hour 11-minute incident happened when a crew was looking after patients so that other paramedics and ambulance crews could unload their own passengers and get back on to the road.

The service was unable to reveal which hospital had been involved or when the incident had happened.

It was revealed in response to a Freedom of Information request from Labour which showed 300,000 patients waited too long last year to get into A&E departments.

West Midlands Ambulance Service said the period quoted related to the time its crew was stationed at the hospital, not the time any individual patient waited.

The response also showed 3,825 people waited longer than 30 minutes for a hand-over in April.

But the worst month for

In March this year 263 were forced to wait for more than an hour, down from 1,637 the same month in 2013.

Jamie Reed, Labour's shadow health minister, said: "Under David Cameron, hospitals are full to bursting and he's forcing ambulances to queue at the doors for hours on end. Thousands of vulnerable people, many of them elderly and frightened, are being wrongly held in the backs of ambulances because hospitals don't have the space." A West Midlands Ambulance Service Trust spokeswoman said: "Hospitals in the West Midlands have worked extremely hard to reduce delays over the last 18 months and in the main have been very successful in doing so."

"On average, delays are now only around an eighth of the levels experienced 18 months ago."

## Accident left woman, 36, with broken legs

A WOMAN aged in her 30s suffered fractures to both her legs after being knocked over by a double-decker bus in Birmingham city centre on Monday.

The 36-year-old woman was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital for specialist treatment following the collision in Carrs Lane, near Moor Street Station.

Suzie Wheaton, spokeswoman for West Midlands Ambulance Service, said: "Crews were called to reports of a pedestrian and a bus that had been in collision."

"On arrival at the scene crews found a woman lying in the road."

"The woman was treated for a potential pelvic injury and fractures to both of her legs."

Catherine Hickman, from West Midlands Police, said: "The incident happened at about 4.30pm and a woman was taken to the hospital, but her injuries were not life threatening."



## Rail work will hit weekend services

THE West Coast Mainline will be partially closed over the next two weekends with some services through the West Midlands affected.

Work on an £81 million improvement plan in Hertfordshire means that the line will be closed between Euston station in London and Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire.

The Watford work will affect services run by Virgin Trains, London Midland, London Overground and Southern from Saturday to Monday and also from August 23 to bank holiday Monday.

### Check

The closure will affect travellers on the West Coast from London to Crewe and North Wales.

London Midland services to London Euston from Birmingham and Crewe will terminate at Northampton.

At Northampton, passengers can change on to a half hourly train service between Northampton and Hemel Hempstead.

Buses will run between Hemel Hempstead and Stanmore Underground Station, via Apsley, Kings Langley and Watford Junction. The same applies in the opposite direction.

Most Virgin Trains services will be affected and the company is urging people to check their journey before they travel in case it is affected.

# Thousands of families have seen their benefits capped

**MORE than 3,400 households in the West Midlands have had their benefits capped, official figures have revealed.**

They no longer get more in benefits than the equivalent of an average household income of £34,000 before tax.

The Government has claimed that across the West Midlands in more than 600 families where the benefit cap has been applied, someone has found a job, stopped claiming housing benefit or reduced their claim.

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Iain Duncan Smith, said: "By capping benefits we are putting a stop to these runaway benefit claims and returning fairness to the system."

More than 45,847 households across the country had their benefits capped by May 2014.

The Government also made £110 million available to councils over two years through the Discretionary Housing Payment fund to support people who need extra help.

The benefit cap limits benefits a household can receive to £26,000 a year — equivalent to a pre-tax salary of £34,000 — or £500 a week for couples, with or without children, and lone parent households, and £350 a week for households of a single adult with no children. Labour has claimed the number of workers who need housing benefit to 'make ends meet' will increase if the Tories win the next General Election.

**By Daniel Wainwright**

Meanwhile, taxpayers have been landed with a £40,000 legal bill after a council's benefits rules requiring people live in the borough for two years to get support were torn up in court.

Sandwell Council is prepared to spend a further £50,000 fighting an appeal against a judge's ruling.

The council set up a scheme in April 2013 that banned anyone who had not lived within the borough for two years from receiving a reduction in their council tax. It came after the Government scrapped council tax benefit for working age people and said it was up to local authorities to decide how to offer help.

Some, including Wolverhampton, began charging working age people a portion of their council tax. Sandwell decided to carry on covering the cost but put a 'residency requirement' in place to prevent benefits tourism.

## Cancer survivor rescues charity fund



Kelly Mullings, 23, with a photo of Paul Ackrill and his cousin Lesley watched by charity boss Paul's mother Gill

WHEN Kelly Mullings was told she had cancer, her whole world was on the verge of falling apart. The 23-year-old sports student from Brierley Hill was determined not to let the diagnosis stop her active lifestyle.

Miss Mullings, of Nagsgersfield Road, diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma last December, threw herself into fundraising to help a charity which supports people like her. During six months of treatment she raised £6,000 to stop the Paul Ackrill Fund folding.

Her battle with cancer started

when she found a lump on her collar bone in May 2013. Kelly said: "I had some initial blood tests and they didn't show anything. I felt fit and healthy so didn't think much more about it but in September last year I got really bad night sweats so I went back for more tests and they showed it was cancer."

The lump was removed in December. Kelly said: "I thought, I am not going to just sit back and do nothing, that's not me. When I heard about the Paul Ackrill Foundation and their fundraising struggle I thought this

is a project I am going to take on." Her target was £2,000 but she raised £6,010.71 through sports events, collections, donations and a triathlon.

Gill Ackrill, 69, of Brierley Hill, set up the charity after her son Paul died of cancer in 2001. She said: "Like Kelly, he was determined to get on with his life and had wanted to help other people. In his memory I was determined to go ahead with the charity. We have given out £150,000 over the years. The money Kelly has raised will see us through to next year."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Costly cancer drug is rejected for NHS

A DRUG that can extend the lives of some women with an advanced form of breast cancer has been rejected for NHS use as it is considered too expensive.

The high price of Kadcyla makes it 'impossible' to recommend for widespread use, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (Nice) said. The drug, also known as trastuzumab emtansine, is used to treat breast cancer patients with HER2-positive breast cancer that has spread to other parts of the body. It can extend lives of patients by around six months.

Nice says that the drug, which costs around £90,000 per patient, is too expensive to recommend, although makers Roche say they have offered to cut the price.

### £400m scheme at former TV studios

A £400 million development has been revealed for Birmingham city centre.

Planning bosses have given the thumbs-up to the first part of the Arena Central scheme, which will see an eight-storey office block built on the site of the old ATV studios in Broad Street. Detailed planning consent has been given for the building, opposite Centenary Square, which will house 140,000 sq ft of accommodation and 5,000 sq ft of retail space on the ground floor.

The building, 1 Arena Central, is the first phase at the 9.2-acre site, where outline permissions are already in place for office space, homes, 2,500 parking spaces and leisure and retail units.

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## Hyde Park Winter Wonderland

Two days departing November 29



**PRICE FROM £89**

**Pick of the week**

Hyde Park, in the heart of London, is one of the greatest city parks in the world and in the run up to Christmas it draws even more visitors with its Winter Wonderland event.

Complete with fairground rides, a world-class circus, a Christmas market and the UK's largest outdoor ice rink there is so much to enjoy, even if it's just the magical atmosphere.

The latest addition is the breathtaking Magical Ice Kingdom, where there are hundreds of sculptures created from over 200 tonnes of ice and snow. Follow the pathways through the themed areas and meet crystal like characters, from woodland creatures to mythical unicorns.

Travel 60 metres into the sky in an enclosed pod for spectacular 360° views on the giant observation wheel, another great attraction, and there's also the Angels Christmas market to browse around with over 150 wooden chalets selling unique gifts.

**Please note entrance to the Hyde Park Winter Wonderland is free, but for some rides and attractions entrance fees are payable locally.**

### INFO

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Visit to Hyde Park Winter Wonderland
- Free time in London
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Christmas at Chatsworth

Two days departing November 15



**PRICE FROM £119**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Chatsworth House and Gardens
- Visit to Meadowhall Shopping Centre
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Bath and Colours of the Cotswolds

Three days departing October 31



**PRICE FROM £149.<sup>95</sup>**

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- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Bath and Lacock
- Entrance and guided walk at Westonbirt
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- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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## Walking for Softies in North Devon

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- Visit to Barnstaple
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Paddy Power Gold Cup

Two days departing November 15



**PRICE FROM £99**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Entrance to the Best Mate enclosure
- Visit to Bath
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Longleat Safari and Adventure Park

Two days departing October 11



**PRICE FROM £119\***

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Admission to Longleat Safari and Adventure Park
- Visit to Bath
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

\*Child price from £109 (conditions apply)  
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Eight days  
Various departure dates 2014 and 2015



**PRICE FROM £299**

- Return flights
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Organised by Newmarket Air Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

## Madeira Winter Sun

Eight days  
Departures November 2014 to March 2015



**PRICE FROM £649**

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- Tours of Funchal and Western Madeira
- Visit to Quintas do Bom Sucesso botanical gardens
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability -supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782, ATOL 6081)





## Rockers with a top live reputation

AN American band with a big reputation for their live performances will play Wolverhampton's Wulfrun Hall later this year.

Rock trio Augustines, from New York, will bring their show to the city on December 5.

The band will come on the back of the release of Weary Eyes, third single taken from their second album Augustines.

Fronted by passionate singer/songwriter Billy McCarthy, Augustines' gigs have been known to spill into the street and even continue in nearby pubs.

Tickets are priced at £12.10 (£11.00 ticket plus a £1.10 booking fee) and are available from Midland Box Office 0870 320 7000 or online at [www.wolvesciv.co.uk](http://www.wolvesciv.co.uk)

## Baddies are good for local musicians

WOLVERHAMPTON promoters Baddies Boogie are holding two of their music sessions showcasing up-and-coming local artists.

Tomorrow (Friday) they are presenting a Pirate themed party night at the Newhampton Arts Centre, Dunkley Street, Wolverhampton. On the bill is Midnight Sun, Andy Bowater, Walsall's Jon Hubbard, Rhianon Brown, Joseph Nicklin and Lee Ford. Entry is £5 and the show starts 7.30pm. Then on Saturday at the Upstairs Room of Talk, Birmingham, the bill is Phillip Madeley, Craig Lennon, Milly Winter, Ellie Downen and Richard Wellington. Entry is £5.

# Autumn leaves them laughing with comedy at city venues

## Saturdays celebrate their finest

THE Saturdays this week released their Finest Selection: Greatest Hits album before touring the country, including a date at Birmingham's NIA on September 15.

Bucking the trend by releasing the collection whilst at the height of their career, fans can look forward to finally getting all the girls' hits on one album.

### Studio

They promise this is far from a farewell with the band planning to return to the studio later on in the year to start recording their fifth studio album.

The album will include three new tracks alongside favourites such as Higher, All Fired Up, Ego, Up and the chart topping What About Us.

Having sold over five million records with four top ten albums, The Saturdays are a pop whirlwind which shows no sign of slowing.



The Saturdays — all revved up and ready for their UK tour including the NIA

## BIG name comics and rising stars of the comedy scene will line up at Wolverhampton Civic Halls and Slade Rooms during a busy autumn of gigs.

Canadian comic Tom Stade, who was once based in the Black Country, starts the season of laughter with his Decisions Decisions show at the Civic Hall on September 13.

Venue spokesman Jonn Penney said: "He's recently stormed BBC One's Live at the Apollo and Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow as well as Ch4's Comedy Gala, performing to his largest live audience yet at London's O2 Arena."

Liverpudlian John Bishop will bring his work in progress to the Wulfrun Hall on September 18 in what has long been a sold out show as the top comic tests out material for his stadium shows.

### Email

Satirist for hire and author of Does Anything Eat Bankers? Andy Zaltzman is at the Slade Rooms on October 4. He urges those going to the gig to email him in advance to set the agenda.

Peter Johansson brings Several Jokes to the Slade Rooms on October 9. His brand of observational comedy has been described as 'gently hilarious'.

The Pub Landlord Al Murray is at the Civic Hall on October 10 and no doubt recommending a white wine for the ladies. His One Man One Guvnor show celebrates 20 years at the (lager) top.



Canadian comic Tom Stade

It's the same night Tony Law invites an audience to Enter The Tonezone at the Slade Rooms.

Simon Evans is Unleashed at the Slade Rooms on October 16 and the following night the venue hosts Paul Chowdhry. Rob Newman explores his New Theory of Evolution at the Broad Street venue on October 19.

Expect observations on Wolverhampton when Mark Steel is Back In Town at the Wulfrun Hall on October 23 and surreal humour with Noel Fielding at the Civic Hall on Halloween.

## Getting ready for folk festival in park

WOLVERHAMPTON'S Dan Whitehouse and Julia Disney are both on the bill at Moseley Folk Festival, August 29 to 31 at Moseley Park, Birmingham.

Headliners include The Waterboys, Johnny Marr, Richard Thompson, Thurston Moore, The Felice Brothers and Lau.

Whitehouse, originally from Wolverhampton but now based in Birmingham, will be performing on the Lunar Stage on August 30. Julia Disney will be performing as part of her husband Gren Bartley's band on the same stage on August 29.

Also on the bill are The Old Dance School, Marissa Nadler, Lisa Knapp and more. Prices for adults range from £35 to £180 for a family weekend ticket.

## Acoustic Welsh duo's club date

BARLOWCREE, South Wales duo Liam Millinship and Jonny Matthew, will be performing at the Brewood Acoustic Music Club tonight at 8.30. The club meets on Thursdays at the Brewood Cricket Club.

Wolverhampton singer/songwriter Megan Reece and guitarist Chris Nicholls will be playing a benefit gig supporting Grant Saunders in aid of the Liam Keeling Fund on August 24 at the 442 Bar, Moose Lane, Willemhall. Tickets £7. See [www.442bar.com](http://www.442bar.com) or call 07538786434. Singer/songwriter and banjo player Cara Luft will be at the Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, on August 27. Doors 7.30pm, £10.

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## CHOICE



Joan Collins

## TV's Nastiest Villains with Joan Collins

**(Channel 5, 9pm)**  
If the old adage 'good guys finish last' is true, prepare to meet the winners. Yes, it's another of those cheap and cheerful countdown shows with some of the world's great small screen bad guys and girls. There's no surprise to find Channel 5 favourites Stefan Dennis and Linda Gray here giving their opinion on the likes of Neighbours' love to hate villain Paul Robinson, and much-missed Dallas bad guy JR Hagman (aka Larry Hagman). Your hostess is Joan Collins, who knew just how to get the blood boiling as Alexis Carrington in Dynasty. Other femme fatales featured are Tanya Turner of Footballers' Wives and EastEnders' Janine Butcher, and there's also the anti-hero who created perfect screen chemistry in Breaking Bad, Walter White.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Food & Drink. 12.00 BBC News: Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 12.50 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 Live Athletics: European Championships. 4.30 Final Score. 5.20 BBC News: Regional News: Weather. 5.40 Pointless Celebrities.

**6.30 Tumble.** Alex Jones hosts the gymnastics contest, as the 10 famous faces return for the second week of the competition. Five of the celebrities and their professional partners will perform acrobatic floor routines, while the remainder take to the aerial hoop. The two contenders with the total lowest best scores from the first and second week will then face The Vault, where head judge Nadia Comaneci will decide who to eliminate and who to save. Joining the world-renowned Olympic gymnast to offer their expert opinion are Sebastian Stella, Craig Heap and Team GB medalist Louis Smith. The programme also includes a showcase performance from multi-medal winning gymnast Beth Tweddle, featuring the UK's best up-and-coming gymnastic talent.

**8.00 The National Lottery: Break the Safe.** Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which three pairs compete to play for a cash prize. Union J join Gabby Roslin as she presents the National Lottery results.

**8.50 Casually.** Cal and Ethan jointly solve a medical mystery, while Rita comes to the aid of a patient struggling to come to terms with a secret – but compromises her chance of promotion.

**9.40 Mrs Brown's Boys.** Agnes is excited about Roy and Dino's big day, until she meets their flamboyant wedding planner, while Father Damien raises concerns about the ceremony. Last in the series. (R)

**10.10 BBC News: Weather.**  
**10.30 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the opening Premier League matches of the season, including Manchester United v Swansea City and Arsenal v Crystal Palace; National Lottery Update.

**11.55 The Football League Show.** Manish Bhasin presents.

**1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead.** 1.20 BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.05 Film:** Blackbeard the Pirate. (1952)  
**7.45 30 For 30.** The Eurovision Song Contest. 10.45 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 11.15 Animal Park. (R) 12.00 Sweets Made Simple. (R) 12.30 Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) 1.00 David Niven: Talking Pictures. (R) 1.50 Film: The First of the Few. (1942) Wartime biopic, directed by and starring Leslie Howard. 3.45 Flog It! (R) 4.30 Live Athletics: European Championships. Coverage of day five from Zurich. 5.15 Live Equestrian. The Global Champions Tour meeting from London.

**7.00 Proms Extra 2014.** Katie Derham is joined by soprano Patricia Rozario, composer and conductor Peter Maxwell Davies, and baritone Roderick Williams, who performs at the end of the programme.

**7.45 Dad's Army.** The older members of the platoon take drastic action when they are threatened with being made air-raid wardens, transforming themselves in a bid to appear younger. (R)

**8.15 Great War Diaries.** The final batch of dramatic reconstructions based on the letters and journals of people whose lives were affected by the First World War. An Australian piano teacher tries to get home from behind enemy lines, an Italian-American leads a revolt in a mental institution, a German soldier is involved in a mutiny, and a schoolgirl attempts suicide. An experienced English journalist is sickened by the Allies' behaviour as the war comes to a close, a French boy witnesses the German retreat and a Cossack woman is caught up in the Russian Revolution. Last in the series.

**9.15 Andrew Marr's Great Scots.** New series. The broadcaster explores the lives of writers who have defined and challenged Scottish national identity over the past 300 years, beginning with James Boswell.

**10.15 01 XL.** An extended edition of the quiz, as Stephen Fry asks Victoria Coren Mitchell, Bill Bailey, Jimmy Carr and Alan Davies questions on the topic of jargon.

**11.00 Film: Oranges and Sunshine.** (2010) Fact-based drama, starring Emily Watson and Hugo Weaving.

**12.40 Film: Wilbur (Wants to Kill Himself).** (2003) 2.20 This is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00 CITV:** Pat & Stan. 6.10 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.20 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.25 Dino Dan. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.55 Canimals. (R) 7.05 Sooty. (R) 7.15 Nerds & Monsters. (R) 7.25 Nerds & Monsters. (R) 7.40 Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 7.55 Chowder. (R) 8.10 Chowder. (R) 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 The Hungry Sallors. (R)

**10.25 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) 11.20 ITV News: Weather. 11.25 Film: Columbo: Death Hits the Jackpot. (1991) 1.25 The Unforgettable Gordon Jackson. (R) 1.55 Peter Andre's 60 Minute Makeover. (R) 2.55 Film: Smokey and the Bandit II. (1980) Road comedy, starring Burt Reynolds. 4.50 Film: Mr Bean's Holiday. (2007) Comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson.

**6.20 Regional Programme:** Weather.

**6.30 ITV News:** Weather.

**6.45 You've Been Framed and Famous!** Harry Hill showcases some of the best celebrity lookalike clips sent in by viewers. (R)

**7.45 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars.** Former Pussycat Doll and Dancing on Ice judge Ashley Roberts, singer and presenter Jamelia and TV host Jeff Brazier take turns on the arcade-style token-pushing machine. Dropping counters down a choice of four chutes, the celebrity contestants hope to knock piles of them off a moving shelf – and the more they collect, the better their chances of scooping the £20,000 prize for a charity of their choice. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard.

**8.45 All Star Family Fortunes.** Hollywood star Danny Mac (Mark 'Dodger' Savage) and Claire Richards from Steps team up with their families in an attempt to win big money for charity. Vernon Kay hosts. (R)

**9.45 Film: Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back.** (1980) The rebels are dispersed after an attack on their secret base and Luke Skywalker goes in search of a Jedi master. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Mark Hamill and Harrison Ford. Continues after the News.

**10.40 ITV News:** Weather.

**10.55 Film: Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back.** (1980) Concluded.

**12.35 Jackpot247.** 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.40 ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.10 The Hoobs.** (R) 6.35 Trans World Sport. 7.30 The Grid. 7.55 The Morning Line. 8.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.55 Frasier. (R) 10.25 Frasier. (R) 10.55 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.20 The Simpsons. (R) 11.55 The Simpsons. (R) 12.25 Speed with Guy Martin. (R) 1.25 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newbury, Newmarket and Ripon. 4.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.40 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.40 Come Dine with Me. (R)

**6.15 Come Dine with Me.** The confident Stelios Michael hosts the final night in Hastings, East Sussex, hoping to impress his guests with a Greek-inspired evening. The diners get involved when they receive a masterclass in the country's traditional dance, before the winner of the £1,000 prize is announced. (R)

**6.40 Channel 4 News.**

**7.05 Grand Designs.** Kevin McCloud follows the progress of architect Richard Hawkes and his wife Sophie, as they move from London to the Kent countryside to build a hi-tech eco-friendly house with room to grow their own food. Richard also wants their new home to blend effortlessly into the surrounding countryside, concealed beneath a huge arch of clay tiles covered with earth and planted with grass. (R)

**8.00 Film: Iron Man.** (2008) Arms manufacturer Tony Stark is taken hostage by a terrorist group and realises the weapons his company builds have been falling into the wrong hands. Using his engineering skills to construct a hi-tech armoured suit, he manages to escape and then puts the technology to good use in the fight against evil around the world. Superhero adventure, starring Robert Downey Jr, Jeff Bridges, Gwyneth Paltrow and Terrence Howard.

**10.25 Film: District 9.** (2009) A South African bureaucrat gets stranded in an internment camp designed to segregate alien refugees from the human population. Sci-fi drama, starring Sharlto Copley and Jason Cope.

**12.35 The Last Leg.** (R) 1.20 Utopia. (R) 2.20 Homeland. (R) 4.10 Hollywood. Omnibus. Tony and Sinead are almost caught out when Diane returns unexpectedly.

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!** 10.00 Access. 10.05 Police Interceptors. (R) 11.00 Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) 12.00 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.00 Film: The Golden Voyage of Sinbad. (1974) Fantasy adventure, starring John Phillip Law. 3.05 Film: Rocky V. (1990) Boxing drama sequel, starring Sylvester Stallone. 5.05 Film: North Sea Hijack. (1979) Thriller, starring Roger Moore.

**7.00 Cricket on 5.** England v India. Mark Nicholas presents action from day two of the Fifth Test, held at the Oval, as the final match of the series continued. England have won just one of their last four Tests here, but that victory came against India in 2011. Commentary and analysis by Geoffrey Boycott, Michael Vaughan, Sunil Gavaskar and Simon Hughes.

**8.00 The Last Secrets of 9/11.** Documentary following the work of a team from New York City's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, who identify the victims of the September 11 attacks from the fragments of human remains found in the debris of the World Trade Centre. (R)

**8.55 5 News Weekend.**

**9.00 TV's Nastiest Villains with Joan Collins.** The actress announces the results of an online poll in which viewers were asked to vote for the TV characters they love to hate, drawing on the worlds of soap, drama, game shows, talent shows and reality TV. The male representatives include JR Ewing from Dallas and Breaking Bad's Walter White, while women featured are Collins' own portrayal of Alexis Colby in Dynasty and Tanya Turner of Footballers' Wives fame. Featuring contributions by Linda Gray (Dallas), Claire King (Bad Girls), former Apprentice candidate Kate Hopkins, Popstars judge Nicki Chapman, Stefan Dennis (Neighbours), Brian Capron (Coronation Street) and Billy Murray and Larry Lamb (EastEnders).

**11.55 Access.**

**12.00 SuperCasino.** 3.10 The Hungerford Massacre: Killing Spree. 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.15 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
7.00 Doctor Who 8.00 Top Gear 9.05 Live at the Apollo 10.05 Russell Howard's Good News 11.05 Family Guy 2.00 Sexy Beasts 2.30 People Just Do Nothing 3.30 Russell Howard's Good News 4.00 Close  
**BBC Four**

7.00 Human Planet 8.00 Tales from the National Parks 9.00 Inspector Montalbano 10.35 John Denver: Country Boy 11.35 John Denver at Wembley Arena 12.15 An Evening with Glen Campbell 1.35 Human Planet 2.35 Tales from the National Parks 3.35 Close  
**ITV2**

12.00 Dinner Date: Australia 1.50 You've Been Framed! 2.20 Film: Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (2004) 4.10 You've Been Framed! Top 100 Kids 5.10 You've Been Framed and Famous! 6.15 You've Been Framed! 6.45 Film: Back to the Future Part II (1989) 9.00 Film: The Shawshank Redemption (1994) 11.55 Film: Batman Returns (1992) 2.25 You've Been Framed! 2.50 Teleshopping  
**ITV3**

12.50 Bertie and Elizabeth 2.55 A Touch of Frost 7.00 Lewis 8.00 Foyle's War 11.00 Bomb Girls 12.00 Film: Columbo: Fade in to Murder (1976) 1.30 World Kitchen 2.20 ITV3 Nightscreen  
**ITV4**

1.10 Film: Battle of the Bulge (1965) 4.30 British Superbike Championship Highlights 6.00 The Motorbike Show 7.00 Storage Wars 8.00 Silverstone Classic 2014 9.00 Film: You Only Live Twice (1967) 11.25 Film: Fight Club (1999) 2.15 Police Camera, Action! 2.40 Movies Now 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping 3.30 The Store  
**E4**

11.30 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 12.30 The Big Bang Theory 1.30 Film: Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004) 3.35 The Big Bang Theory 4.30 Melissa & Joey 5.30 Made in Chelsea NYC 6.35 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 7.00 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film: The Twilight Saga: New Moon (2009) 10.40 The 100 11.40 The Big Bang Theory 12.40 Virtually Famous 1.30 Almost Royal 2.00 How I Met Your Mother 3.15 The Cleveland Show 4.00 Suburgatory  
**Film4**

11.00 A Challenge for Robin Hood (1967) 1.00 Escape to Victory (1981) 3.15 Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) 5.00 Fantastic Mr Fox (2009) 6.40 Mona Lisa Smile (2003) 9.00 Salt (2010) 10.55 Tucker & Dale vs Evil (2010) 12.40 Silent Hill (2006) 3.15 Close

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CHOICE



Matthew McNulty

The Great War: The People's Story (ITV, 9pm)

A century after the conflict began, there are no British First World War soldiers left to share their experiences with us, but that doesn't mean their stories can't still be told in their own words. If you missed the first episode, this series uses the letters and diaries of people who lived through the Great War. This second episode also provides a fascinating insight into medical history, as it explores the experiences of Reg Evans (Daniel Mays), who underwent pioneering plastic surgery after being shot in the face. If that sounds surprisingly modern for the First World War, we're also about to learn that celebrity chefs aren't an entirely new phenomenon, as we hear excerpts from the diaries of fashionable restaurateur Hallie Mills (Alison Steadman).

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** **8.35 Match of the Day.** **10.10** Sunday Afternoon Live. **11.00 Wanted Down Under.** (R) **11.45** Helicopter Heroes Down Under. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.15** Best of Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.45** Eat Well for Less? (R) **3.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.30** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **5.30** Songs of Praise. **6.05** **Deadly on a Mission: Pole to Pole.** Steve Backshall embarks on another quest to track down the world's most dangerous animals, and begins by searching for polar bears, walrus and muskoxen in the Arctic. (R) **6.35** **BBC News;** Regional News; Weather. **7.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the experts visit Blair Castle in Perthshire to examine items including a collection of valuable miniatures and a Mickey Mouse toy with a poignant history. They also look at a wooden spoon whose humble appearance belies its intriguing past. (R) **8.00** **Countryside.** As a result of a viewer suggestion, John Craven and Shauna Lowry visit the Sperrin Mountains in Northern Ireland, a largely unknown but beautiful part of the region. Exploring the area by foot, Shauna heads to an old blacksmith's forge that was made famous by its inclusion in a Seamus Heaney poem. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. **9.00** **The Village.** Phoebe, the stationmaster's daughter, invites Bert to go to the new dancehall, while Grace decides to join the cycling club for a ride out. Elsewhere, Marie Stone's caravan arrives. **10.00** **BBC News;** Regional News; Weather. **10.25** **Match of the Day 2.** Liverpool v Southampton and Newcastle United v Manchester City. Mark Chapman introduces highlights of the Premier League matches at Anfield and St James' Park respectively. **11.25** **Film: The 51st State.** (2001) An American drug dealer heads for Liverpool to make one last sale, with a hitwoman working for his old boss in hot pursuit. Action comedy, with Samuel L. Jackson. **12.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.55** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.45** Alan Titchmarsh's Garden Secrets. (R) **7.45** Live Athletics: European Championships. **10.30** The Football League Show. (R) **11.50** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **1.20** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. (R) **1.50** Live Athletics: European Championships. Further coverage of day six from Zurich. **4.50** Flog It! (R) **5.30** Great Continental Railway Journeys. (R) **6.00** **Celebrity Antiques Road Trip.** Dinnerladies co-stars Anne Reid and Thelma Barlow team up with antiques experts Paul Laidlaw and David Harper for a road trip around Oxfordshire. Armed with a classic car and £400 each, the two actresses compete to buy antiques to sell for a profit at auction in Penkridge, Staffordshire. Along the way, a visit to see wartime artwork conjures up emotional memories for Anne. (R) **7.00** **Tropic of Capricorn.** Simon Reeve embarks on the final leg of his journey, crossing the vast expanse of mainland Australia. Heading east from Ningaloo Reef, the explorer comes across a ghost town in Wittenoom Gorge, contaminated beyond habitation by a nearby asbestos mine. Travelling across the Northern Territory, Simon witnesses the shocking living conditions endured by Aboriginal communities in the shadow of Uluru. (R) **8.00** **Dragons' Den.** More people bid to win funding for their projects from the panel, including an 18-year-old seeking to impress with his garden shed invention. There is a rip-roaring entrance by a Kent-based gaming entrepreneur and the Dragons get a taste of Colombia's finest cocaine beans. Will anyone be able to walk away with a deal? Evan Davis presents. **9.00** **James May's Cars of the People.** The Top Gear presenter explores the weird world of the microcar, discovering how austerity and fears of congestion led to a variety of disastrous European vehicles. **10.00** **Film: The Prestige.** (2006) Two Victorian magicians become bitter rivals as one becomes obsessed with the secret to the other's greatest illusion. Mystery thriller, starring Hugh Jackman. **12.05** **Sign Zone: Countryside;** Summer Special. (R) **1.00** Holby City. (R) **2.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITY: Pat & Stan. **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **7.45** Live Athletics: European Championships. (R) **8.55** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.25** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.40** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.55** Chowder. (R) **8.10** Chowder. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **12.30** Lost Last Family. (R) **1.30** **Film: Columbo: Identity Crisis.** (1975) **3.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **6.35** **Regional Programme;** Weather. **6.45** **ITV News;** Weather. **7.00** **Come On Down! The Game Show Story.** Bradley Walsh focuses on the quiz show in the second of four programmes. He hears the intriguing story of Mastermind's creation and sits in the famous black chair himself for an interrogation by presenter John Humphrys. He also meets former London cabby Fred Housgo, who shot to fame after his 1980 win on the programme. Bamber Gascoigne and Nicholas Parsons discuss the evolving role of the quizmaster over the decades and there's a look at how Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? changed the course of TV history when Judith Keppel became its first jackpot winner. Plus, a quiz-show scandal in the late 1950s, long before Millionaire's Coughing Major controversy. **8.00** **The Zoo.** Vets face a difficult decision regarding a sick 15-year-old lioness following an exploratory operation, while a keeper begins a new role training chimps one-on-one. **9.00** **The Great War: The People's Story.** Reg Evans (played by Daniel Mays) undergoes pioneering plastic surgery, while job opportunities open up for a society cook (Alison Steadman) and a suffragette (Romola Garai). **10.00** **ITV News;** Weather. **10.15** **Kids with Cameras: Diary of a Children's Ward.** A 12-year-old boy recovers from a stroke caused by a freak accident, while an eight-year-old with muscular dystrophy takes part in a medical trial hoping to improve his symptoms. (R) **11.15** **The Cube.** (R) **12.15** **The Store.** **2.00** Motorsport UK. **2.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.00** Britain's Best Bakery. (R) **4.50** **ITV Nightscreen.** **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

**6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** Caterham Motorsport. **7.05** Traillish: Long Course Weekend. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.35** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.40** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.10** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.40** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.10** The Simpsons. (R) **3.40** The Simpsons. (R) **4.10** Deal or No Deal. **5.15** Channel 4 News. **5.45** **Film: Water for Elephants.** (2011) **8.00** **The Mill.** William is forced to lower wages as the cotton industry feels the impact of the recession, but the news doesn't go down well with Daniel, who believes the workers should withdraw their labour. Preparing for the worst, the boss mobilises troops in the area and appoints John to lead a new band of special constables. Esther's views on strike action change when the consequences of the cuts put her son Billy's life in danger and she joins Daniel at the forefront of the protest. However, when tensions escalate, William arms his men with clubs and sticks. Elsewhere, as Hannah's health declines, she receives a parcel from the plantation in Dominica and is horrified by its contents. **9.00** **Richard III: The New Evidence.** Since the discovery of Richard III's remains under a car park in Leicester, scientists have been subjecting the 15th-century English king's skeleton to intense scrutiny and analysis, allowing them to reassemble his life in detail. Using the latest techniques, experts have been able to define the extent to which his spinal deformity would have affected his ability to be the warrior famed for leading the charge at the Battle of Bosworth. They have also pieced together his diet and revealed his lifestyle in his final years, with surprising results. **10.00** **Film: The Taking of Pelham 123.** (2009) Criminals hijack a crowded New York subway train and threaten to kill the passengers unless they are paid \$10million. Thriller remake, with Denzel Washington and John Travolta. **12.05** **Film: Good Morning, Vietnam.** (1987) **2.10** Wallis Simons: The Secret Letters. (R) **3.05** First Time Farmers. (R) **4.00** The Million Pound Drop. (R) **5.00** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) **5.05** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Frights. (R) **7.50** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Access. **10.15** Highland Emergency. (R) **10.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.40** **Film: White Fang.** (1991) Adventure, starring Ethan Hawke. **3.45** **Film: James and the Giant Peach.** (1996) **5.15** **Film: The Hunchback of Notre Dame.** (1996) Disney animation, with the voices of Tom Hulce and Demi Moore. **5.55** **Weekend.** **7.05** **Crickets on 5.** England v India. Mark Nicholas presents action from day three of the Fifth Test, held at the Oval, as the final match of the series continued. **8.00** **World's Scariest Animal Attacks.** Terrifying animal encounters, including a 19-year-old who was pulled free by her friends when she was attacked by a great white shark off the coast of Chile. Last in the series. (R) **9.00** **Film: Sale.** (2012) Premiere. A former cave fighter protects a 12-year-old girl holding valuable information that several criminal factions want. Action thriller, with Jason Statham and Catherine Chan. Part of the In Statham We Trust strand. **10.55** **Film: Crank: High Voltage.** (2009) A hitman pursues a mobster who took his heart and replaced it with a machine that requires constant charging up. Action thriller sequel, starring Jason Statham and Amy Smart. Part of the In Statham We Trust strand. **12.40** **Criminals: Caught on Camera.** (R) **1.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** Soho Nail Bomber: Killing Spree. **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Three** **7.00** **Film: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade.** (1989) **9.00** Our World War **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Siblings **11.15** Cuckoo **11.45** American Dad! **12.30** Sexy Beasts **1.00** Siblings **1.30** Cuckoo **2.00** Football Fight Club **3.00** Impractical Jokers **3.30** Sexy Beasts **4.00** Close **BBC Four** **7.00** Proms on Four **8.30** Secret Knowledge: The Art of the Vikings **9.00** Great Poets in Their Own Words **10.00** Edinburgh Extra **11.00** Egypt's Lost Cities **12.30** Great American Rock Anthems: Turn It Up to 11 **1.30** Forever Young - How Rock 'n' Roll Grew Up **2.30** Great Guitar Riffs at the BBC **3.30** Secret Knowledge: The Art of the Vikings **ITV2** **2.50** You've Been Framed! **3.20** **Film: Nancy Drew** (2007) **5.20** **Film: King Kong** (2005) **9.40** **Film: Hot Fuzz** (2007) Action comedy, starring Simon Pegg. **11.20** **Film: Batman Returns** (1992) **1.50** The Big Reunion 2014 **2.45** Pixie Lott: The Hot Desk **2.55** Teleshopping **ITV3** **2.05** Inspector Morse **4.25** **Film: Carry On Cowboy** (1966) **8.20** **Film: Columbo: The Bye-Bye Sky-High 10 Murder Case** (1977) **8.00** **Film: 10.00** **Film: Chaplin** (1992) **12.55** William and Mary **1.55** Goodbye Mr Chips **3.40** Emmerdale **ITV4** **12.05** The Car Chasers **1.05** Silverstone Classic 2014 **2.05** Alias Smith and Jones **3.10** **Film: Destry** (1954) **5.15** **Film: Nevada Smith** (1966) **8.00** Ray Mears' Close Encounters **9.00** **Film: Mortal Combat** (1995) **11.00** Hell on Wheels **11.55** Alias Smith and Jones **1.00** River Monsters **2.05** Richard Bacon's Beer and Pizza Club **2.40** Movies Now **2.50** **ITV4** Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4** **1.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.30** Suburgatory **2.55** The Mindy Project **3.25** New Girl **3.55** The Big Bang Theory **4.50** The 100 **5.50** Rude (ish) Tube **6.50** **Film: Inkheart** (2008) **9.00** **Film: Almost** (2010) **10.35** Virtually Famous **11.25** The Big Bang Theory **12.25** Rules of Engagement **1.20** The Mindy Project **2.15** Ben Elkar: Trick Artist **3.05** Bob's Burgers **3.25** Hollywood **Film4** **11.00** The Mark of Zorro (1940) **1.00** Hocus Pocus (1993) **2.55** Ramona and Bees (2010) **5.00** Marmaduke (2010) **6.50** Drilbit Taylor (2008) **9.00** Season of the Witch (2011) **10.50** The Wolfman (2010) **12.50** The Blood on Satan's Claw (1971) **2.50** Close

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**MONDAY**

**Imaginary Friend, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

A woman experiences visions of her childhood imaginary friend, whom she created for emotional support while being abused by her father. Fearing she is losing her mind, she takes drastic measures to rid herself of the hallucinations, but begins to suspect they are a warning about a threat to her life posed by her own husband. Thriller, starring Lacey Chabert. (2012)

**TUESDAY**

**Audrey's Rain, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

An embittered woman who has given up all her own dreams for the sake of her younger siblings finds herself having to bear even more responsibility when her sister commits suicide and leaves her to raise two children. However, the return of a lost love rekindles her sense of hope. Drama, starring Jean Smart. (2003)



**Precious, Friday, BBC2, 11.05pm**

**WEDNESDAY**

**Irresistible, BBC1, 11.50pm**

Melbourne housewife Sophie becomes increasingly suspicious of her husband's beautiful female colleague Mara. She is convinced the woman is a danger to her marriage and family, but the increasingly nerve-racked Sophie finds no one will believe her. Doubting her own sanity, she takes drastic action and puts her life in peril. Thriller, starring Susan Sarandon. (2006)

**THURSDAY**

**Paycheck, BBC1, 11.35pm**

An engineer carries out a top-secret job on the understanding that his knowledge of the task will be erased from his mind afterwards to protect his employer's intellectual property. However, waking after the memory-wiping procedure, he is shocked to learn he had somehow agreed to waive the huge payment due to him – and is wanted for a murder he does not remember committing. Thriller, starring Ben Affleck. (2003)

**FRIDAY**

**Precious, BBC2, 11.05pm**

Overweight and illiterate Harlem teenager Precious has endured years of abuse at the hands of her parents. When it is discovered she is pregnant for the second time by her father, Precious is removed from her school and sent to a new institution, where she encounters a kindly teacher who inspires her to try to turn her life around. Drama, starring Gabourey Sidibe. (2009)

**PICK OF THE WEEK**

**Looking back on a match to remember**

It hardly seems like two minutes since the last one finished, but last Saturday, the new Premier League season kicked off.

While non-football fans moaned and whined about how the sport tends to take over TV and chats around the watercooler at work, fans were beside themselves with glee – especially as excitement in the domestic leagues this year may help them forget the nightmare that was England's World Cup campaign in Brazil.

But there's another reason to celebrate the return of top-flight football, and that's because it coincides with the 50th anniversary of Match of the Day.

Back in 1964, when the first edition aired, Kenneth Wolstenholme (later to find fame with his "they think it's all over, it is now" moment during the 1966 World Cup final at Wembley) commented on highlights from just one game – a First Division encounter between Liverpool and Arsenal, which the Anfield side won 3-2.

Only 20,000 people tuned in, just

half the number of spectators who were at the ground; that might sound like next to nothing, but at the time, few people could receive new channel BBC Two.

Unlike nowadays when low ratings ensure a show will be axed early, the Beeb stuck with its sporting baby, and before long, it became an iconic show that remains must-see viewing for football fans everywhere.

This special programme looks back at MOTD's history, picking up on memorable moments, from match highlights to the way in which it covered the Hillsborough disaster with great dignity as events unfolded.

Regular viewers such as Alan Sugar, Sue Johnston and Russell Brand discuss their love of the show, and Barry Stoller talks for the first time about composing the famous theme tune.

Also discussing the programme are John Motson, Wayne Rooney, Thierry Henry, Ryan Giggs and the recently retired Alan Hansen.

Over the years, the likes of David Coleman, Jimmy Hill and Des Lynam have hosted the programme; it's

Gary Lineker who sits in the hotseat these days. He has every reason to be cheerful, because his beloved Leicester City are back in the top echelons – although he's anything but optimistic.

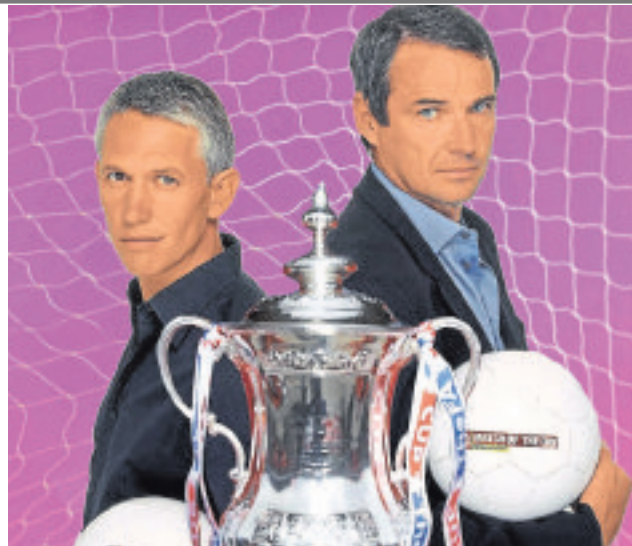
"I'm not the world's most confident fan," he grins. "I should be – I should believe in them more than I do."

Does he ever wish he was back out on the pitch?

"Not really. There are aspects of football that can be quite tiresome – being treated like a kid, being shouted at all day, being told what time to do stuff, being told what to eat, etc, etc. The one thing I do miss is scoring a big goal in an important match, and the euphoria that that brings."

Instead, Gary is happy with his day job: "I always look forward to the start of the season. Football is still hugely important to a lot of people in this country and Match of the Day is always an exciting show."

Long may it continue – here's to another 50 years, at least.



**Match of the Day at 50, Friday, BBC1, 10.35pm**

**BEST OF THE REST**

**MONDAY**

**Long Lost Family ITV, 9pm**

When Colin Deering left home to join the Army, his mother Nellie revealed to him and his younger sister Helen that she had given birth in 1945 and put the baby up for adoption, believing he would have a better chance in life. Shortly before her death, Nellie begged Helen to find her brother and reunite the family, and this programme aims to fulfil that dying wish. Plus, the story of Stephen Haywood, who has put his life on hold until his birth mother can be a part of it. He feels unable to celebrate important occasions without her present, and in recent years his search has become more urgent due to serious health issues. Presented by Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell.

**My Online Bride Channel 4, 10pm**

Internet dating is big business these days – once a rarely discussed, taboo topic, the world of online match-ups is now the first place to turn when embarking on a search for a soulmate. In fact, an estimated 15 million Brits are said to be looking for love online, and this one-off documentary follows men of all ages as they head abroad in search of a wife. Among others, we meet 46-year-old Chris who is divorced and looks after his two children,

leaving little time for romance – so he's trying his luck on a Bangkok romance tour. Meanwhile, Mike is 26 and has been searching for a wife in the Ukraine, and after weeks of chatting to Tatyana on Skype, he's arranged to stay with her.

**TUESDAY**

**Super Senses: The Secret Power of Animals BBC2, 9pm**

Biologist Patrick Aryee and physicist Helen Czerski explore the world of animal senses to reveal how they detect things beyond the limits of human perception, conducting experiments and demonstrations featuring a variety of species. They begin by investigating sight and reveal how caribou – wild reindeer of Alaska – use ultraviolet light to avoid their predators. They also discover how the dragonfly's ability to view things in slow motion allows it to make a kill, and show how a snake can see in the pitch dark without using its eyes.

**WEDNESDAY**

**Secrets from the Asylum ITV, 9pm**

The first of two programmes in which celebrities embark on an emotional journey to discover

how their ancestors coped in Victorian asylums. Hollywood hardman Ray Winstone visits Colney Hatch Asylum in north London, where his great-great-grandmother's first husband was committed in 1875. Comedian Al Murray follows in the footsteps of one of his forebears, Vanity Fair author William Makepeace Thackeray, to discover the measures he took to save his suicidal wife from the horrors of institutionalisation. Plus, actress and singer Claire Sweeney finds out how senile dementia and old-age mental health was treated in the 19th century.



**THURSDAY Who Do You Think You Are? BBC1, 9pm**

Actress Tamzin Outhwaite, who is currently starring as DCI Sasha Miller in BBC One crime drama New Tricks, but is best known to audiences for her role as Melanie Owen in EastEnders,

looks to learn about her Italian roots on the maternal side of her family as a result of her fond childhood memories of big meals with relatives, antipasto and energetic conversations. Her journey begins in the heart of London's East End where her great-grandfather Tony Gonella once ran a cafe. She visits the Isle of Man, Italy and finally Glasgow as she explores her ancestor's life, and also discovers more about her mother's father Remo Santi and his dad Adelmo.

**The Last Leg Channel 4, 10pm**

Will Daniel Radcliffe ever escape Harry Potter? Maybe not, but he's trying his best to prove he can do things other than play the boy wizard by tackling as many varied roles on stage and screen as time allows him. Now he's making an appearance on this comedy show; those who remember him taking part in QI a few years back will know he's quick-witted, so co-hosts Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker had better be at the top of their game. As ever, they will be taking an irreverent look at the stories that have hit the headlines during the past week while asking the all-important question 'is it OK?' For Radcliffe, in terms of career progression, the answer is yes.

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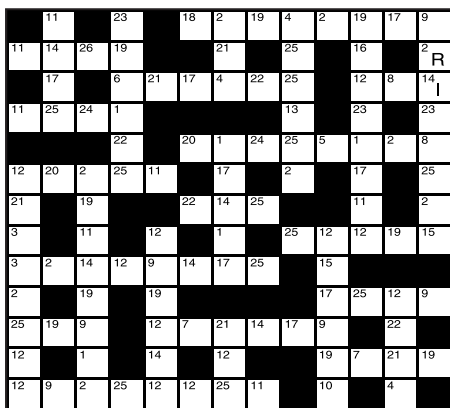
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## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

F	J	K	X	B	A	G	L	P	I	H	O	D
M	S	Z	N	R	V	C	E	U	Q	W	Y	T

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

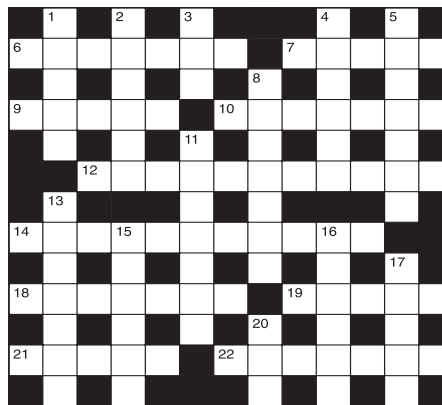
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

6. See 11 Down  
 7 & 21Ac. He delights in hearing the score (5,5)  
 9 & 19Ac. Does this dawn on you in a shattering way? (5,2,3)  
 10. See 1 Down  
 12. An offer within the law which the creditor can't refuse (5,6)  
 14. It was destroyed by a storm at the end of the eighteenth century (3,8)  
 18. An artistic effort is proving attractive (7)  
 19. See 9 Across  
 21. See 7 Across  
 22. Ancestry and rank a considerable time afterwards (7)

#### Down

- 1 & 10Ac. It's kept by the keen-eyed sentry (5,4-3)  
 2. Wear away a piece of ribbon, one hears (6)  
 3. One spot for the expert (3)  
 4. Old boot used for street entertainin' (6)  
 5. Certain amount of time for the records (7)  
 8. I cannot change what boxes do (7)  
 11 & 6Ac. Not accepting responsibility for circulating American currency (7,3,4)  
 13. Conveyance number ten in the diagram (7)  
 15. Headgear for the woodsman! (6)  
 16. Made away with the goods, as the crane operator did (6)  
 17. The French cry of disgust produces a sound of merriment (5)  
 20. Capital cover that's locked (3)



### Quick Clues:

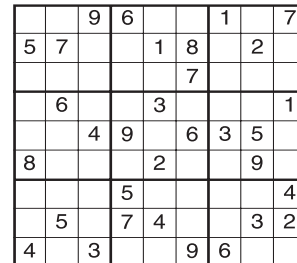
#### Across

6. Lasting (7)  
 7. Extend (5)  
 9. Condition (5)  
 10. Deny (7)  
 12. Strained (5,6)  
 14. Actor (5,6)  
 19. Guard (7)  
 18. Bear (5)  
 21. Meal (5)  
 22. Gather (7)

#### Down

1. Allotment (5)  
 2. Fix (6)  
 3. Cunning (3)  
 4. Victor (6)  
 5. Fall back (7)  
 8. Rower (7)  
 11. Esteem (7)  
 13. Germ-free (7)  
 15. Elicit (3,3)  
 16. Empower (6)  
 17. Ruse (5)  
 20. Rapture (3)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	8	6	2	7	9	1	5	4
5	1	4	3	6	8	7	9	2
2	9	7	5	4	1	6	3	8
6	7	2	8	3	5	9	4	1
1	4	9	7	2	6	3	8	5
8	3	5	9	1	4	2	6	7
4	2	3	6	5	7	8	1	9
7	5	8	1	9	3	4	2	6
9	6	1	4	8	2	5	7	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Wasted time; 7 Lathe; 8 Related; 10 Striding; 11 Frau; 13 Mobile; 15 Vassal; 17 Turn; 18 Confront; 21 Hearing; 22 Ariel; 23 Undertakes. Down: 1 Water; 2 Steadily; 3 Erring; 4 Tale; 5 Matures; 6 Close match; 9 Double talk; 12 Half-back; 14 Bargain; 16 Sought; 19 Omit; 20 Side. QUICK - Across: 1 Assistance; 7 Tight; 8 Chianti; 10 Narrated; 11 Tier; 13 Indeed; 15 Dures; 17 Each; 18 Tropical; 21 Stamina; 22 Chant; 23 Needlessly. Down: 1 Auger; 2 Situated; 3 Secret; 4 Arid; 5 Concise; 6 Stinginess; 9 Irresolute; 12 Auspices; 14 Declare; 16 Ornate; 19 Crazy; 20 Kind.

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Get your event listed on all the important sites and publications including The Guardian Guide, Time Out, The List and local press.

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For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and a disco (conditions apply). Or the Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance.

**Theatre Showstopper from £209.<sup>95</sup>**

This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening.

Both breaks include a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options).

Pick ups points offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

\*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply for all breaks

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)



For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go [expressandstar.com/starextratravel](http://expressandstar.com/starextratravel)

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions



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Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



**NEW**  
**KINGSWINFORD, Mount Pleasant** £775 pcm - Fees  
Absolutely fantastic and not too be missed. Within the catchment area for Glynne Primary School and Summerhill Secondary School. This huge semi-detached home has 2 reception rooms, large modern kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, conservatory, downstairs WC. This property has had a full makeover. Viewing is essential to appreciate the size of this house. EPC: TBC



**KINGSWINFORD, Blenheim Road** £725 pcm - Fees  
Located within the sought after 'Crestwood Park' development and the catchment area for Crestwood Secondary School. A superb modern semi-detached house, featuring 3 good size bedrooms, house bathroom with shower, welcoming reception hall, large attractive lounge through to a dining area, fitted kitchen, driveway and garage, front garden and a large rear garden. EPC: D



**CRADLEY HEATH, Best Street** £695 pcm - Fees  
Wow what a fantastic family home offering copious of space! With 4 good size bedrooms, huge through lounge/diner, family bathroom, downstairs WC, carport with driveway, great size kitchen and a large garden, to boot! A long term rental opportunity which will be snapped up! EPC: D



**ROWLEY REGIS, Fairbourne Avenue** £675 pcm - Fees  
Perfect for a family and close to the M5, a large Mucklow Style detached home which is available now, close to local shops and bus routes. Featuring 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes and 1 large single bedroom, 2 good size lounges, large kitchen, downstairs wc, shower room, gas central heating, new windows, huge rear garden, driveway and garage. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Hunnington Crescent** £650 pcm - Fees  
Recently redecorated and carpeted. This huge 3 bedroom town house has had a full redecoration, carpets and boiler. This house will not stay around for long as it is so close to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring 3 bedrooms, a large lounge with stunning views, bathroom with shower, driveway and garage parking, downstairs wc, small low maintenance rear garden. EPC: TBC



**ROWLEY REGIS, Alwin Road** £650 pcm - Fees  
This detached house in a cul-de-sac location. Located close to local shops and transport links. Featuring gas central heating, living room, dining area, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden, driveway parking, unfurnished. EPC: TBC



**NEW**  
**HALESOWEN, The Infield** £625 pcm - Fees  
An unfurnished modern 3 bed semi detached family home, located on a new build development, benefiting from: gas central heating, double glazing. Comprising of: spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, guest wc, 3 bedrooms one with en-suite, family bathroom with shower, small rear garden and allocated parking. EPC: C



**HALESOWEN, Haden Arch Court** £575 pcm - Fees  
Contemporary living in Halesowen. This 1st floor spacious apartment above the archway, within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre and buses, the apartment features gas central heating, double glazing, open plan living room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with separate shower cubicle, allocated parking. EPC: B



**NEW**  
**HALESOWEN, Spring Street** £550 pcm - Fees  
Well presented 2 bedroom mid terrace house benefiting from gas central heating, double glazing, 2 reception rooms with laminate flooring, both with contemporary style fireplace. Well equipped kitchen with appliances. Downstairs walk-in wet room. 2 double and 1 single bedrooms. Available immediately. EPC: F



**CRADLEY HEATH, Mace Street** £525 pcm - Fees  
Beautifully presented and not to be missed! This modern home is in a sought after area for Old Hill train station, local shops and bus links. The house features 2 double bedrooms, en-suite bathroom to the master, spacious lounge with patio doors leading to a lovely maintained garden, bathroom with shower and a modern kitchen. EPC: TBC



**HALESOWEN, Cross Street** £495 pcm - Fees  
Beautifully presented and very close to Halesowen Town Centre. This lovely ground floor maisonette features 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, dining kitchen, brand new bathroom with shower, private rear garden and driveway parking for 2 cars. EPC: E



**OLDSWINFORD, Hall Street** £475 pcm - Fees  
A quaint mid-terrace house, close to local shops and transport links, comprising of 1 double bedroom, 1 large single bedroom, large fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, spacious lounge/dining area, small rear garden, double glazing, gas central heating, on road parking. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Upper Ashley Street** £475 pcm - Fees  
Set in this quiet residential area close to Blacketh Town Centre is this lovely semi detached home featuring lounge, fitted kitchen with gas oven/hob, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, electric heating, parking, unfurnished. EPC: TBC



**NETHERTON, Round Street** £475 pcm - Fees  
Set in a quiet road, is this lovely semi-detached home. Featuring gas central heating, 1 reception room, fitted kitchen, 1 double and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden and driveway parking for 2 cars, unfurnished. Popular residential street close to Netherton High Street. 2 months deposit and a guarantor is required. (THE GUARANTOR MUST BE A HOME OWNER, FAMILY MEMBER AND WORKING). EPC: D



**CRADLEY HEATH, Hingley Court** £460 pcm - Fees  
Freshly redecorated and in the centre of Old Hill. This lovely ground floor apartment features an open plan lounge/kitchen with a washer/dryer and a small fridge, 2 large double bedrooms, modern bathroom with shower, 1 allocated parking space behind electric gates. Not to be missed. Available now. EPC: TBC



**HALESOWEN, Hagley Road** £450 pcm - Fees  
An immaculately presented ground floor 1 bedroom flat, with walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring an open plan living room/modern fitted kitchen with integrated fridge/freezer and washing machine, bathroom with shower over bath, allocated parking space, unfurnished. EPC: C



**NEW**  
**CRADLEY HEATH, King Street** £450 pcm - Fees  
Located in the heart of Old Hill. Ideally situated for local shops, buses and train links is this unfurnished 1st floor modern apartment which comprises of 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen with white goods, spacious lounge, double glazing, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: C



**ROWLEY REGIS, Oldbury Road** £425 pcm - Fees  
Recently refurbished, very generous sized unfurnished flat above shop. Gas central heating, part double glazing, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, 1 bedroom, bathroom with shower, on road parking. Rent includes water rates. EPC: E



**CRADLEY HEATH, Archer Gardens** £425 pcm - Fees  
Set within a quiet complex, close to Cradley Heath town centre and the local train station, is this unfurnished ground floor maisonette, benefiting from gas central heating (Bathroom), electric heating in the lounge and bedrooms, large living room with separate dining area, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, communal gardens and allocated parking. EPC: C



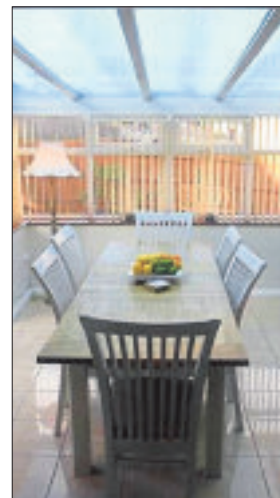
**HALESOWEN, Pippin Avenue** £425 pcm - Fees  
An unfurnished, modern, spacious ground floor flat on this popular estate and briefly comprising: open plan living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, full double glazing, parking space. A minimum contract of 12 months is required. EPC: D



**CRADLEY HEATH, Halesowen Road** £400 pcm - Fees  
This value for money unfurnished terraced house, close to Old Hill Town Centre and Old Hill Train Station. Featuring 2 bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, gas central heating, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower, on road parking. NO REAR GARDEN. EPC: D

## PROPERTY

# Extended residence is of showhome standard



**A SHOWHOME standard extended residence in Attingham Drive, Dudley, has an orangery.**

It is for sale through Connells at £279,950. It has a kitchen with double electric oven with a gas hob and overhead cooker hood, integrated fridge/freezer and dishwasher. The orangery has spotlights, self-cleaning roof and tiled floor. There is a utility area and a gallery landing. The master bedroom has two fitted wardrobes and an en suite shower room. Bedrooms two and three and four have fitted wardrobes. The bathroom has bath and double shower. Contact Connells on (01384) 214770 or [www.connells.co.uk](http://www.connells.co.uk)



# This traditional detached home has re-fitted kitchen



**A TRADITIONAL three-bedroom detached property with spacious accommodation, including an extended lounge, a re-fitted kitchen and bathroom, in Gervase Drive, Dudley.**

It is for sale through Wakeman Estates at £269,950 with no chain.

With double glazing and central heating, it has a porch, entrance hall with staircase off, a front reception/dining room, extended lounge, kitchen, utility room, landing, bedroom one with built in wardrobes, two further bedrooms, a recently re-fitted bathroom plus a separate shower room.

There is a garage, driveway, parking area and garden with patio and lawn. For details contact Wakeman Estates on 01902 885894 or [www.wakeman-online.com](http://www.wakeman-online.com)







## Centres to lead the way

**Vauxhall's refreshed Premier Van Centre is set to shake-up the fleet aftersales sector with over 90 per cent of all UK businesses covered within a 30-minute drive time.**

Maximising mobility and minimising downtime, Vauxhall van fleet customers can expect diagnostics without appointment, lead times no longer than three days and a dedicated Premier Van helpline.

And the benefits don't end there. Vauxhall will collect and deliver vehicles within a ten-mile radius (five miles within the M25) and offer a courtesy

vehicle free of charge. All Premier Van Centre sites will carry out Class 7 MoTs and have a five-tonne lift on-site.

### Strict

Vauxhall's service centres have to meet a strict selection criteria. Only sites that can provide sales and service support and meet strict service level requirements can qualify for Premier Van Centre status. Premier Van Centres are also listed on Epyx 1link for ease of identification and online service booking requests.

Repairs are carried out at fixed labour rates with job sheets completed on the day the work is completed and invoiced within five working days, so no hidden or unexpected surprises.

Customers can also take advantage

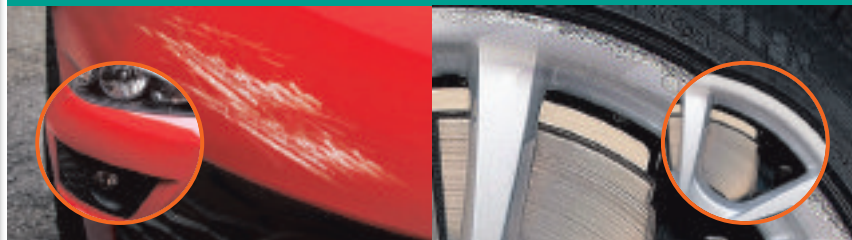
of a while-you-wait option when a repair is expected to be completed on the same day.

Once work is complete, a 25-point safety check is carried out including all safety enhancements and software updates. Vauxhall even throws in a wash and vac with every annual service and free fitting of wiper blades.

The announcement of Premier Van Centres follows the launch of the all-new British-built Vivaro, which further enhances Vauxhall's award-winning van range.

"We are delighted to announce full details of our refreshed Premier Van Centres," said Richard Collier, Vauxhall's national commercial vehicle and business-to-business sales manager.

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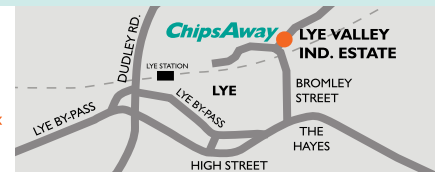
✓ **Paintwork scratches**

✓ **Dented panels**

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# Great mix of economy, style and performance

By John Griffiths

**There's something going on under the bonnet of a new range of Audis which benefits both the environment and drivers – particularly business users.**

The company's huge range of models has been joined by 'Ultra' versions of the A4, A5 and A6, using an update of its 2.0-litre turbo diesel engine, already one of the most powerful in its class with up to 190Ps on tap in the case of the A6.

The net result is a saving of hundreds of pounds on fuel, the tax disc and 'benefit in kind' tax without sacrificing performance: indeed, the new Ultra range actually has more oomph than its predecessors.

I drove the Ultra-powered version of the £30,850 A5 Coupe, a sleek executive express with the potential to go from a standstill to 62mph in a rapid 8.3 seconds.

Yet it is also capable of beating many small hatchbacks in terms of economy, with average fuel consumption of more than 67mpg and a CO2 emissions rating of just 109g/km.

This means, compared to its predecessor, the tax band falls from C to B and a 16 per cent drop in the business driver's tax bill – nearly £250 as well as savings at the pumps. The figures are identical for the new Ultra-powered range of A4 saloons.

Saving money and developing your green credentials normally means a trade-off with performance and driving pleasure, but in this case the opposite is true.

The 2.0-litre turbo diesel under the bonnet is a completely new development, designed for even more efficiency and leaner burning. It also has a new 'selective catalytic reduction' system which removes nitrogen oxides from the exhaust gases, ensuring the cars meet EU6 standards, the most stringent ever applied to European cars.

## Same

But the driver also has the same maximum engine power of 163Ps under his right foot but at lower revs (1,200rpm lower, at 3,000rpm in fact), and maximum torque is increased to 400Nm and over a wider spread, from just 1,750rpm.

If the figures don't mean much, you will notice the difference long before you pull up at the pumps.

It means in normal driving the car whispers along at very low rpm, saving fuel and reducing noise levels, but a little more pressure from the right foot will send it surging forward smoothly without the need to stir the six-speed manual gearbox.

All the Ultra models come as standard with lowered, sports suspension which not only reduces drag (therefore aiding economy), it also means even sharper handling. The standard alloys are reduced to 17in as a result, equipped with 225/50 low-profile tyres.

It turns into bends positively and accurately and grips well, and based on a test drive on a variety of rural roads, it has little impact on ride quality.

The Ultra models currently come as manual, front-wheel drive only, with no four-wheel drive Quattro versions.

The A5 is only available at present in SE trim, which comes with the sort of kit you'd expect from an upmarket coupe. Driver and front passenger have executive levels of space, but the sleek coupe shape does mean a small sacrifice in room for those in the rear compared to the A4 saloon.

Boot space is well up to class standards, ranging from 455 to 829 litres depending on whether the rear bench seat is up or folded flat.

Driver and passengers can sit back in heated Milano leather upholstery, with the benefit of electronic climate control and an upmarket sound system with multi-media interface.

You also get automatic wipers and lights, parking sensors, satnav, multi-function steering wheel, electric front windows, and cruise control. Safety equipment includes multiple airbags as well as a limited slip differential and the usual array of electronic wizardry, such as ABS and stability control.

## TESTED

### Audi A5 Coupe Ultra

**Engine:** Four cylinder 1,998cc turbo diesel with 163Ps of power and 400Nm of torque driving the front wheels via a six-speed manual gearbox.

**Performance:** 0 to 62mph in 8.3secs: max 139mph.

**Economy:** urban 56.6mpg, country 74.3mpg, average 67.3mpg. CO2 emissions 109g/km (tax band B).

**Insurance:** Group 28E

**Warranty:** Three years/60,000 miles.

**Price:** £30,825.



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MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Pictures for illustration only. We are licensed credit brokers. 7 year / 100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty, for terms and exclusions visit [www.kia.co.uk](http://www.kia.co.uk). For Motability details and eligibility visit: [www.motability.co.uk](http://www.motability.co.uk)

Picanto: Model shown is the Kia Picanto 5-door 'VR7' 1.0 68bhp 5-speed manual @ £9,095 including £750 customer saving. Customer savings vary by model derivative. Specification is subject to change without notice. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. Price, Reevo score and number of reviews correct at time of going to press. †3 years' servicing (Kia Care-3) for £99 offer is only valid on applicable 'VR7' models. Log onto [kia.co.uk/vr7](http://kia.co.uk/vr7) for full details. Offer not available with any other offer. Retail sales only. Subject to availability on vehicles registered between 01/07/2014 and 30/09/2014. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. 18's or over. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Further charges may be made subject to the condition or mileage of the vehicle. Anticipated annual mileage 9,000 miles, excess mileage charge 14.9p per mile. YOU WILL NOT OWN THE VEHICLE UNTIL ALL PAYMENTS ARE MADE. At the end of the agreement there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available. (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment (£4,246) to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Kia Motors Finance RH1 1SR. The Bluetooth® word mark and logo are registered trademarks and owned by the Bluetooth SIG, Inc.



# Marking a milestone with two specials

By Sharon Walters

SsangYong presented a fully refreshed range for 2014, and with registrations up by some 154 per cent on last year, is now one of the UK's fastest growing marques.

With every car in the line-up being covered by an industry leading five-year limitless mileage warranty and representing such great value, perhaps that level of performance is not so surprising.

The brand first arrived in the UK 20 years ago, and to celebrate 60 years of vehicle production, SsangYong has introduced two special limited editions, one based on its popular Korando crossover and the other on the Rexton W 4x4.

All Rexton W 4x4 models are currently being offered with three years free servicing. This includes the Rexton W SX, EX and EX automatic models as well as the CSX commercial, and registered by September 30, 2014.

Combined with the existing market leading five-year limitless mileage warranty that protects all SsangYong cars, this brings three years free servicing (or three services, whichever comes sooner), giving customers complete peace of mind.

The Rexton W range is also currently available with 0 per cent finance from participating dealers.

## Comforts

Built on a steel ladder chassis and with a three-tonne towing capacity, the new SsangYong Rexton W is a serious off-roader and tow-car, yet with all the equipment and creature comforts expected of an urban cruiser. It is powered by SsangYong's own 2.0 litre Euro 5 turbo charged e-XDi200 diesel engine.

Taking the Rexton EX specification, the special 60th anniversary edition adds front parking sensors, an electric sunroof, heated seats front and rear, a power adjustable passenger seat, DAB satnav and is finished in pearl white lily metallic paint.

Available with either six-speed manual or five-speed Mercedes-Benz T-Tronic automatic transmission, prices range between £21,995 and £27,495, with the commercial at £18,495 (ex VAT).

The Giugiaro designed Korando is already noted for its great value, high level of equipment, interior space and two-tonne towing capability, and has been given a makeover inside and out, as well as enhanced driving refinement.

Externally, the front received an all-new treatment that included a slimmed down, black mesh radiator grille, contemporary projection headlights and LED daytime running lights, while the interior was given a significant re-design that included a completely revised dashboard. Great advances in reducing NVH (noise, vibration and harshness) have also been made.

## Modern

The new Korando is powered by a modern yet well-proven 2.0-litre Euro 5 turbo diesel engine. There is a choice of power outputs, manual and automatic transmission, and two wheel drive or 4x4.

Based on the four-wheel drive Korando ELX4, the special 60th anniversary edition adds 18in diamond cut wheels, an electric sunroof, rear spoiler and chrome detailing, and is completed with a pearl white lily metallic paint finish. It is available with either manual or automatic transmission.

Korando prices start from just £14,995. The new SsangYong Turismo is almost without competition. At over five metres long and with a three-metre wheelbase, the car is larger than a standard sized MPV, yet is a car rather than a van-derived 'people carrier'.

Consequently its huge interior space and flexible passenger and load carrying capability means it can carry seven adults and 875 litres of luggage, through to two adults and 3,146 litres of load space.

Designed to appeal as family, leisure and business transportation, this new car blends multi-role flexibility with great ride comfort and the appointments and equipment levels of a luxury saloon.

The Turismo is powered by SsangYong's 2.0 litre turbo charged e-XDi200 diesel engine, and there's a choice of six-speed manual and five-speed Mercedes-Benz T-Tronic automatic transmission, and with the EX model, selectable 4x4 with low ratio as standard. All models offer an impressive 2.5-tonne towing capability, and prices start from just £17,995.

The Korando Sports brings a new level of refinement to the pick-up market, blending the suspension, engine and cabin finesse of a passenger car, with the silhouette, space and seating for five that's typical of a double cab, and the rugged workmanlike ability of a commercial pick-up.

This new Korando Sports will appeal to those who need a working vehicle, the practicality of four-wheel drive, the towing capability to haul up to 2.7 tonnes yet also the appointments of a family car.

There are two models to choose from, and both are extremely well appointed.



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<p><b>10/10 Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec AUTOMATIC</b> 3dr, 35k, Blue, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/windows <b>£6995 / £33 Per Week</b></p>	<p><b>07/07 Suzuki Swift 1.3 GL</b> one owner 47k, Burnt Orange, CD Player, E/Windows <b>£3995 / £28 Per Week</b></p>
<p><b>07/07 BMW 120 D SE Diesel</b> 73k, Bronze, Cream Leather, Alloys <b>£6995 / £40 Per Week</b></p>	<p><b>06/06 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Zetec</b> 3dr, Blue, *ONLY 39k MILES*, Alloys, Climate Pack <b>£3795 / £24 Per Week</b></p>
<p><b>08/58 Alfa Romeo MiTo 1.6 JTD Lusso Diesel</b>, 54k red, *AVERAGE 58 MPG*, Leather, Alloys, Air Con, CD <b>£6495 / £31 Per Week</b></p>	<p><b>06/06 Seat Altea 1.6 Reference Sport</b> 5dr, 52k, Grey, Alloys, Air Con, CD <b>£3495 / £24 Per Week</b></p>
<p><b>07/07 Peugeot 207 CC 1.6 THP 150 Coupe GT Convertible</b>, *ONLY 32k MILES*, Red, Alloys, Leather trim <b>£5995 / £29 Per Week</b></p>	<p><b>04/54 Vauxhall Zafira 2.0 DTi Diesel 16v Elegance</b> 7 Seater, 54 Reg, 67k, Silver, Alloys, Air con, CD <b>£3495 / £35 Per Week</b></p>
<p><b>05/55 Mini One 1.6 (Chilli) Convertible</b> 50k, Orange, Alloys, Air Con, Chrome Detailing, Half Leather <b>£5795 / £33 Per Week</b></p>	<p><b>05/55 Nissan Micra 1.2 S, 55 Reg</b>, 46k, Silver, *LOW INSURANCE*, CD <b>£2995 / £21 Per Week</b></p>
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<p><b>08/08 Fiat Bravo 1.4 Dynamic</b> 50k, Red, Alloys, Air Con, CD Player <b>£4495 / £22 Per Week</b></p>	<p><b>06/56 Chevrolet Lacetti 1.6 SX</b> 49k, Blue, Alloys, CD <b>£2495 / £15 Per Week</b></p>

Finance example: Kia Picanto 1.0 Picanto 1.0, Cash Price £4995, Deposit £300, Amount of credit £4695, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 12% APR, 60 Payments of £103 (£23.76 per week) Total amount payable £6480.00 (Excludes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

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## DRIVETIME



## New high for used car prices

**Average used car values reached a record high in July, according to BCA's latest Pulse report.**

The headline average value of a used car rose by 1.4 per cent to £7,706, ahead of June's figure by £109. Average performance against CAP Clean improved marginally from 96.57 per cent to 96.78 per cent, while average age and mileage fell slightly compared with June.

Year-on-year, July 2014 was ahead by £831 or 12 per cent, with both average age and mileage falling over the 12-month period. CAP Clean perfor-

mance was up by nearly a point, year-on-year.

Average values declined in the fleet and lease sector for the third month running, although the fall was negligible at just £37 (equivalent to 0.4 per cent), while values rose in the dealer part-exchange sector to a new record level. Nearly-new values also rose, although model mix has a significant effect in this low-volume sector.

Simon Henstock, BCA's UK operations director commented: "We are now well into the summer holiday period and the wholesale markets are generally quieter. However, this year volumes have remained relatively high and there is still plenty of competition for the best stock on offer.

"The shortage of good quality fleet and lease stock continues, with volumes not expected to pick up until the second half of September.

"Cars entered from dealer part-exchange sources have typically outperformed the market in 2014 and July was no exception.

"Average values reached record levels, as dealers continued to supply the marketplace with well-presented, realistically valued cars to tempt the buyers in.

"Sellers should consider adjusting valuations now on poorer condition cars with a view to remarketing them before volumes begin to rise and buyers have more choice from mid-September onwards."



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Models shown: Alto 1.0 SZ4 available at £7,999 on the road, includes customer saving of £1,600 (metallic paint available at £399). Splash 1.2 SZ4 available at £9,899 on the road, includes customer saving of £1,980 (metallic paint available at £415). Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr available at £11,415 on the road, includes customer saving of £2,284 (metallic paint available at £430). Alto, Splash and Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 40.9 (6.9) to 55.4 (5.1), extra urban from 56.5 (5.0) to 78.5 (3.6), combined from 49.6 (5.7) to 67.3 (4.2). Official CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 131 g/km to 109 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. \*VAT free offer on Alto, Splash and Swift range: Alto 1.0 SZ available from £5,999, including customer saving of £1,200 to Alto 1.0 SZ4 A/T available at £8,625 including customer saving of £1,724 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £7,199 (SZ) and £10,349 (SZ4 A/T). Splash 1.0 SZ2 available at £7,999, including customer saving of £1,600 to Splash 1.2 SZ4 A/T available at £10,645 including a customer saving of £2,129 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £9,599 (SZ2) and £12,774 (SZ4 A/T). Swift 1.2 SZ2 3dr available at £8,999, including a customer saving of £1,800 to Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr 4x4 available at £13,699 including customer saving of £2,740 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £10,799 (SZ2 3dr) and £16,439 (SZ4 5dr 4x4). VAT Free offer excludes Swift Sport. VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st July 2014 to 30th September 2014 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print.

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**5**  
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wanted**

7

Jobs

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8

Motoring

cars over £1500

**CITROEN C4 VTS**, 06 reg, 2.0, petrol, 3-dr, MoT, tax, 78,000 miles, FSH, mint condition, £2,495 ono. 07955 587600.

**FIAT BRAVO 1.4 Active**, 57 reg, 113k miles, taxed, MoT, good condition all round, £2,450 ono. 07455 903660. 07910 625250.

**FORD FOCUS TITANIUM** Hatchback, 2.0 diesel, 2010 (10 Reg), 20,000 miles, metallic black, one owner, 6 months tax and MoT. £8,750. 07708 095983.



**FORD FOCUS 1.8 ZETEC**

2011, 10,960 miles, silver, electric windows, air bag, air con, fsh, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, one owner, 1.8 Zetec. £7,895 ono. 07544 941903.



**HONDA CIVIC 2.2 CTDi ES DIESEL** 2007, 07, live door, 124k miles, fsh, MoT August 2015, very good condition, £3,500 ono. 07914 084189.

**HONDA CIVIC 1.8 SE** 5dr, blueish silver, 2006, 117k miles, FSH and MoT, full leather seats, excellent condition, very reliable. £3,200. 01746 769646.

**JAGUAR S TYPE** 3.0 V6, 03 reg, taxed till Jan 2015, MoT till March 2015, FSH, 6 speed automatic, £2,500. 07949 776824.

**MERCEDES BENZ B180 SE**, 55 reg, diesel, 5-dr, metallic silver, 6 speed, 30k, manual, FSH, tax / MoT'd, £4,400 ono. 07970 411864.

**MERCEDES C180 KOMP CLASSIC SE AUTO** 04/54, 54k, fsh, silver, MoT/tax, very good condition, £4,350. 01902 755633.

**MG MIDGET 1977**, BRG, 45k from full refurb, lead free conversion some history. Genuine reason for sale. £1,750, o.n.o. 01902 894225.

**MGTF 2002 1.8 Stepspeed** Automatic, silver, 36,000 miles, taxed and MoT'd, £1,650 ono. 07803 181611. 01562 587092.

**PEUGEOT 207**, 2006, 35,000 miles, silver, air con, alarm, MoT, central locking, tax, panoramic roof, £2,300. 01902 671737.

**PEUGEOT 407 1.9 HDi**, 04, 136,212 miles, silver, MoT April 2015, Tax March 2015, alloys, EW, stereo, CD, £1,450 ono. 07941 112657.

**RENAULT CLIO 1.4**, Dynamique S, 2007, black, top of the range, taxed and MoT'd, well maintained, £2,500. 01922 419720.

**RENAULT MEGANE SL OASIS** 1500CC 05 plate, 12 months MoT, 2007, black, top of the range, taxed and MoT'd, £2,195 ono. 07799 130064 / 07867 550675.

**SEAT Ibiza**, 2006, 45,000 miles, 12 months MoT, tax end Sept, black, c/i, good runner, £2,995, 07793 066778 (Wolverhampton).

**SUZUKI GRAND VITARA** 05 reg, 2.0 diesel, tax, MoT, 45,000 miles, good condition, £3,250 ono. 07951 967444.

**SUZUKI JIMNY** 59 reg, black/silver, taxed / MoT, 11,000 miles, excellent, as new condition, lady owner. Reluctant sale, £7,500. 01543 675063 / 07939 161436.

**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2** 3Dr, Energy, 2010, metallic blue, 21k miles, one lady owner, MoT March 2015, excellent condition. £4,950. 01902 333986 / 07753 381034.

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**01902 689940.**

**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI** 2009, 20,700 miles, black, tax Feb 2015, MoT Oct 2014, alloys, tidy car. **£5,200** ono. 01902 672562.

**VOLKSWAGEN TOURAN** 2.0 TDI, 2007, metallic black, auto, fsh, full MoT/tax, 7 seater, 64,000 miles, sat nav, multi changer DVD/CD, one owner from new. Showroom condition. **£8,200** ono. **07904 783221.**

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**AUDI A6 TDI Sport**, Diesel, 2002, 138,000 miles, new cambelt/water pump, February, tax/MoT, silver, £1,300 ono. 01384 270574.

**BMW 318 X reg.**, two door, 12 months MoT, blue, £600 ono. Local call. 07971 507523.

**CITROEN C3** 2003, 63,000 miles, gold, abs, electric windows, air bag, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, tax, stereo, CD. **£1,000** ono. **01902 269145.**

**CITROEN PICASSO 2.0 HDI**, 01, 11 months MoT, 5 months tax, new cam belt, electric SR, £550 ono. 07548 511612 or 01902 847277.

**CITROEN PICASSO EXCLUSIVE** 2.0 HDI, 2002, 135,000 miles, silver, tax and MoT, very good condition, £895 ono. 01384 889696.

**CITY ROVER SOLO 04**, full MoT, tax, low mileage, excellent condition £800 ono. 07980 832319.

**FIAT PUNTO CABRIO 1.2 16V CONVERTIBLE** 1999, black, full electrics, PS, MoT Jan, good condition £750 ono. 07788 287476.

**FIAT PUNTO DYNAMIC**, 2005, turquoise, 11 months MoT, 3 months tax, good condition, £595 ono. 07814 203810.

**FIAT PUNTO SPORTING 1.2**, 55 reg, 12 months MoT, one months tax, 74,000 miles, £395 ono. 07967 220306.

**FORD FIESTA 1.3 Mk5**, 51 reg, 12 months MoT, clean car, £325 ono. 07930 225347.

**FORD FIESTA 1.4 Zetec**, petrol, 07 reg, 12 months MoT, low mileage, excellent condition, £1,995. 07930 953391.

**FORD FIESTA Y reg**, 1.2, 5 door, full MoT, tax, e/w, low mileage, good condition, CD player, £795. 07930 953391.

**FORD FOCUS CL**, 2002, 116,000 miles, service history, MoT till May, good clean condition. £950 ono. 07930 953391.

**FORD FOCUS Ghia**, 1998cc, 4dr, saloon, 2001 reg, 117,000 miles, tax and MoT, leather interior, £260 ono. 07915 615870.



**FORD KA** 2004, 1300cc, 59,000 miles, blue, 12 months MoT, 11 months tax, 2 owners from new. Excellent runner, very good all round. Ideal first car.

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**FORD MONDEO LX 1.8** 2004 Petrol 117,000 miles, Blue MoT, SAT, cruise control £500 07702 874610

**MITSUBISHI SHOGUN**, 2.8TDI, lwb, 7 seater auto, full MoT, alloys, full towing pack, engine, body, box all good clean and tidy. 4 x 4 private plate, high top, low miles, **£895** ono. **07956 517744.**

**MITSUBISHI SPACESTAR** 5 dr hatchback, Red, 2004 reg, 1.6 engine, auto gear box, superb condition all round. Taxed, Tested May 2015. **£1,450**. **01902 759930.**

**NISSAN MICRA VIBE 1000cc**, 2002, only 80,000 miles, blue, tax/MoT, service history, cheap to run. £750. 07926 768 401.

**PEUGEOT 307 SW HDi**, 7 seater, 54 reg, 155k, Tax Oct, MoT Nov, new engine, new turbo, new clutch. £1,250 ono. 07794 758900.

**RENAULT LAGUNA**, hatchback, 2000, 63,000 miles, blue, petrol, long MoT, sunroof, 9 months tax. £750. 01902 689940.

**RENAULT CLIO**, 2003, 96,000 miles, silver, electric windows, sunroof, stereo, 1 months MoT and tax, £850 ono. 07527 920123.

**RENAULT SCENIC GS**, 1.5 diesel, full MoT, 6 months tax, all previous MoT's, showroom condition, first to see will buy. £1495. 07913 203692.

**RENAULT SCENIC 1.4**, 16v, Fijdi model, 52 reg, MoT 1 months tax, 70,000 miles. £975 ono. 07933 918920 or 0121 5303219.

**ROVER STREETWISE** 2004, 6,000 miles, grey, long MoT, no tax, excellent condition. £1,095 ono. 07732 268946.

**TOYOTA ESTIMA**, 1995, 92,300 miles, red, electric windows, air con, long MoT, tax, CD, 8 seats. £600 ono. 07954 374222.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 Club**, 54 reg, 5-dr, auto, new shape, good condition, 48k, taxed, MoT d, £1,350 ono. 07711 887814.

**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0**, 51 plate, 5 door, new shape, full MoT, alloys, very reliable, new battery, service, cl, £725 o.n.o. 07956 517744.

**VAUXHALL TIGRA X reg**, 46,000 miles, metallic Kiwi, sunroof, air con, alloys, service history, 11 months MoT, 6 months tax, £1,000. 01902 657665.

**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA Diesel**, 7 seater, 2002, blue, very good condition, MoT June 2015, taxed end Dec, £999 ono. 01384 352489.

## classic cars

**CLASSIC CARS WANTED** Private cash buyer Instant cash settlement. Any age, any condition. Call Market Drayton. **01630 652993.**

**CLASSIC VW Polo 2dr** saloon, 1.0, 24 years old, 58k, MoT, no tax, no rot, cheap to insure. £1,350 ono. 01902 530123 / 07747 740971.

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## motorbikes

**HONDA CRF 250L TRAIL BIKE**, (63 Plate) Tax Dec, heated grips & top box 2,600 miles. Mature owner. warranty/breakdown cover December 15. FSH. Beautiful condition. £2,995. ovno. **07890 180410-Kidderminster**

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## 9 Local Information

## public & legal notices

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## 10 Personals

## personal

## general

## A VERY SINCERE

Loving, easy going, caring man, age 59, would like to meet woman that's similar. **Box Number C19394**, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**GOOD LOOKING MALE** 52, kind, caring, seeks a sincere, loving lady, 37 - 53, for LTR. **Box Number P19382**, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

**KIND HEARTED DIVORCED GUY** 56 WLTM a reliable, honest, non smoking female 45 - 55 with a loving, understanding nature, to share the good and bad times together leading to a meaningful relationship. Genuine replies only. **Box Number P19400**, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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**LYNNE** young looking attractive Indian female with GSOH and down to earth attitude, looking for likeminded male for date nights, hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411219**

**EMMIE** 50, attractive brunette, 5ft 3ins, OHAC, likes country walks, music, reading, seeks genuine, friendly, professional male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411281**

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**RITA** naughty 40's petite pretty female looking for that special man in my life, any age, to get to know and see what happens, you only live once remember! **0906 500 3955 Box No: 410959**

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**KATHERINE** 35yr old outgoing single female looking to enjoy dates with similar male also looking for fun times in or area. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410565**

**PAULINE** attractive divorced female with no ties, employed with my own home, likes nights in/out, lots of tic to give to the right person, call me for a chat, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411039**

**JEN** attractive sensual petite blonde with OHAC seeks confident fit professional male to enjoy and share good times, if that's you pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410949**

**ARE** you dark or bald, with hairy chest, well built, educated, verbal, articulate dom or sub, broadminded and ready to be put in your place? Curious to find out more? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410637**

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**YOUNG** early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847**

**CAROL** 38 attractive romantic not looking for fairy tales just happy endings, seeking lovely male to put the sparkle back into my life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410721**

**CLAIRE** voluptuous tall feminine attractive lady who loves good company, fine wine/food, travel, WLTM tall professional for romance dates and hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410627**

**MICHELLE** 37, looking for laughter fun and romance with the right guy, if you could be him and have nothing to loose call me for a chat. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410415**

**TAYLOR** 21 black beautiful classy intelligent, loves to have lots of fun and enjoy life to the full, seeking mature guy to make me happy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409911**

**WENDY** 50, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, likes music, meals out, seeks white male, 45-55 with similar interests and GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410499**

**73YR** old Hereford lady, GSOH, young at heart, many interests, seeks caring, genuine gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410331**

**NICKY** bubbly curvy fun blonde, varied interests, enjoys meals out, holidays, seeking N/S male with GSOH for possible ltr. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410479**

**KAREN** 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTM for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easy going guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410461**

**LIZ** 5ft 7ins, attractive, outgoing, likes walks, dogs, cooking, seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410395**

**ZOE** 25 long haired sensual female, very naughty, broadminded and open, looking for similar fun guy for uncomplicated adult meals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409719**

**JANE** attractive, feminine open-minded mature female genuinely looking for adult fun. No time wasters please. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409715**

**JILL** 50, attractive, 5ft, blonde, own home, no ties, likes films, reading, travel, music, good social circle, seeking that someone special. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410105**

**ATTRACTIVE** professional lady, 56, enjoys country walks, meals out, seeks professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the good things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409895**

**ELAINE** attractive 39yr old blonde single mum seeking respectful male/dad with similar interests for adult friendship, hopefully leading to love. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410117**

**DONNA** 27yrs blue eyed blonde with cute dimpled smile, loves socialising but looking for that special someone with GSOH to cuddle up with, enjoy fun/good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409733**

**MARGARET** OHAC, professional, sincere, adventurous, loving, kind, solvent lady who enjoys most things WLTM caring male with similar refined tastes. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407925**

**ATTRACTIVE** 49yr old divorced lady, looking for honest, reliable man for LTR, 49-60. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409955**

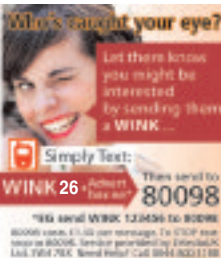
**ABBA** girl blonde lookalike, size 16, attractive, bubbly, OHAC, seeking solvent, effined, handsome guy with a full head of hair. 5ft 9ins plus, professional and courteous. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409151**

**NEETA** Black beauty, classy, intelligent 21yrs, loves to enjoy life, have lots of fun and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age, looks and status. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409101**

**Hi I'm** Jo, first time, newly divorced perfect size 10, blonde, attractive, tactile and looking to fall in love again. Age unimportant, dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409089**

**SUSIE** 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408877**

**BABS** 27yrs slender with dark haired passionate Italian who loves to dance, eat out, looking for nice n/s male to spend quality adult time with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407943**



**BUBBY** 60 plus lady, slim, fair hair, comfy in jeans and leather jacket, seeks similar male for friendship etc. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408859**

**JOANNA** 34, in need of tic, winning, dining being treated like the princess I am, looking for sugar daddy, that someone special to love me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408869**

**MARIA** gorgeous outgoing bbw 27, good fun, caring, romantic, looking for that special someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 3955 Box No: 408793**

**KIM** attractive single lady new to area looking for meet new friends and maybe a new love interest. I have many hobbies and am interesting to know, pls call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408489**

**TAYLOR** attractive very busty curvy black female looking for fun times with open-minded male who is also looking for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408311**

**BETHANY** 25yr old blonde, slim size 10 with great personality, looking for nice guy to share my life with, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408253**

**KIRSTY** blonde blue eyed size 12 nurse, enjoys cosy nights, driving, holidays, socialising, WLTM broadminded male for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409259**

**KATH** blonde independent female, employed with OHAC looking for fun and laughter with likeminded nice easy going male, any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407955**

Men seeking women

**REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.**

**LONELY** male, disabled, would like to meet male or female for company. Likes animals, visiting historical places, karaoke. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4172884**

**FUN** loving easy going guy, 30, tall dark and handsome, looking for an older woman who likes good times and fun. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4453744**

**ADVENTUROUS** 32yr old slim, dark haired, creative, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks likeminded female to share fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

**BLACK** guy 68, feels 45, looks 40, seeks female, 58-71, GSOH, genuine, caring for fun times and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413375**

**TALL** Indian gent, 53, seeks sensual lady for friendship plus, interesting chap, discreet days in and nights out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413315**

**JOHN** 70, tall, slim, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413183**

**GENT** widower, late 60's, looks younger, GSOH, likes music, good food, country pursuits, seeks female, 50-60 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413173**

**TONY** young looking 50's male, 5ft 8ins, many interests, easy going, seeks slim rock chick or similar for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413275**

**6FT** 1ins slim, dark hair, likes walking, animals, seeking medium build female, 60-80 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413193**

**JEFF** young 62, N/S, tall, fit, energetic, seeking new female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413053**

**JOHN** 5ft 10ins, slim, GSOH, various interests, seeks female for friendship/relationship. **35-52. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413107**

**RETIRED** male, seeking no strings adult fun and frolics, discretion assured, age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413067**

**TONY** young looking 50, 5ft 8ins, slim, seeks slim rock chick, trendy for dates and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413049**

**KEVIN** 53, looking for a friend/partner and a lover. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412869**

**NORTH** Shropshire male, 67, N/S, solvent, GSOH, likes walks, travel, music, holidays, countryside, seeks N/S lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412867**

**MAURICE** gentleman, 59, gentle, kind, caring, loving, generous, seeks lady with GSOH and similar personality, slim-medium build. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412859**

**MALE** seeking female companion for outings, friendship and holidays. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412705**

**STEPHEN** 58, good looking, likes art, travel, seeking female, 50 plus for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412633**

**MALCOLM** 61, smoker, great personality, likes coach holidays, drives, pubs, meals out, nights out, 60's music, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412523**

**TONY** 52, dark hair, white male, 6ft, confident, GSOH, seeks black female. Genuine ad. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412481**

**TALL** 42yr



## Tivs make up for M5 delay with a victory

**Barnstaple Town FC 1  
Tividale FC 4**

AFTER a six-hour coach ride and arriving an hour and a half after the original kick off time due to very heavy traffic on the M5, it took the visitors quite a while to shake off the travel weariness.

Barnstaple on the other hand had been raring to go, and they completely bossed Tividale in the first half hour and deservedly took the lead with a great strike from the impressive Jack Jenkins on 17 minutes.

The visitors were literally all over the place at this time and should have gone 2-0 down but somehow Barnstaple hit the bar from 10 yards with the goal gaping.

As the half ended Tividale began to get up to some sort of speed and they were level on 40 minutes when the first flowing move of the game culminated in a classy volley by Karl Edwards.

The second half was all Tividale and they should have been ahead well before the 72nd minute when Jordan Archer latched onto a through ball, held off his marker and fired home. Tividale added two more in the last five minutes a second for Edwards and one from substitute Max Bissell.

## Gray fears Villa likely to struggle

FORMER Villa striker Andy Gray admits he is worried about the club's chances of beating the Premier League drop this season.

Villa ended in 15th place last year and finished just five points above the bottom three after losing seven of their last nine fixtures.

Gray, who had two spells at the club as a player, insists he is not impressed by the new signings.

He said: "I think they'll struggle. They have not signed anyone who has made the Aston Villa fans sit up and think 'wow, what a signing'."

"Joe Cole has come in but is he going to make Villa better than they were last year? With the greatest of respect, I don't think it is."

# Club enjoys success at championships

THE British Gas ASA National Championships took place at Ponds Forge, Sheffield from Tuesday August 5 to Sunday 10.

Halesowen swimmers Chloe Finch, Hannah Taleb, Josh Bradley and Richard Spoor enjoyed a hugely successful Championships with Chloe pulling off a stunning victory in the 800m freestyle and Richard making it an incredible double by winning gold in the 200m breaststroke.

Chloe Finch (16), competing for City of Birmingham, had another gruelling competition schedule and, after competing at the National Youth Team Championships

### Swimming

in Portugal just two weeks ago, made the shorter trip to Sheffield for the ASA National Championships.

Chloe competed on all six days of the Championships and started in fine style on day one by making it through to the 200m freestyle semi-final.

On day two it was an amazing gold medal performance in the 800m freestyle to grab top spot on the podium and a great swim to finish fifth in the 200m freestyle final. Day

three saw another semi-final in the 100m Freestyle and then on day five a ninth place finish in the final of the 400m individual medley.

The final day saw Chloe through to the final of the 400m freestyle and, after qualifying in sixth place pulled off an amazing performance in the final to win a silver medal and just missed out on top spot by 0.19 seconds.

Richard Spoor (21), competing for Loughborough University, was competing in the 50m, 100m and 200m breaststroke and qualified for every final. Richard qualified in

first place in the 100m but was forced to settle for bronze. In the 50m the competition was fierce with Richard well placed in 6th but the 200m on Saturday saw an incredible performance to grab national gold by almost 1.5 seconds from his nearest rival.

Josh Bradley (21) was competing in the 50m and 100m butterfly and narrowly missed out on semi-final places.

Hannah Taleb (16), competing for Hamilton UAE, took part in all three breaststroke events and also produced three excellent performances for the most successful ever National Championships for the club.

# Irvine ready to put £10m Ideye to test

**ALBION boss Alan Irvine is ready to throw £10m record signing Brown Ideye into Saturday's Premier League opener.**

Irvine's decision comes after admitting the striker is lacking match fitness.

The Albion boss is considering risking his most recent summer signings as substitutes for the opening game against Sunderland as he looks to overcome his injury crisis.

The head coach is already without crooked d Joleon Lescott and James Morrison at the weekend while Cristian Gamboa is still awaiting his visa.

And that means Ideye, centre-back Gareth McAuley and full-back Jason Davidson, who figured in yesterday's behind-closed-doors under-21 friendly against Nottingham Forest, could be pressed into action on the Baggies bench.

"We're going to have to put people in our squad who haven't done as much in pre-season as I'd have liked," admitted Irvine.

"Brown is ahead of where we feared he might be, which is great news. Hopefully he'll be able to play some part, as with some of the other boys who have missed pre-season will be."

"It's important to have that. We've got some good young players here but we haven't got too many who are ready to play Premier League football. They've done well over pre-season and been a great help in terms of training because they've given us numbers in training."

Ideye scored twice and Stephane Sessegnon once as the under-21s beat Forest

### Football

3-1 at the Baggies' training ground. Ideye, McAuley and Davidson played 60 minutes and Sessegnon completed 75 in his second game since returning from international duty.

And Irvine revealed he's already taken to his record signing.

"Brown is enthusiastic and seems like a good lad – a good type," said the boss.

"I only met him at the beginning of the week and he came across really well."

"James Morrison trained yesterday and today so that's fantastic and I'm really pleased about that."

"He has come through without any problems but he is still obviously behind the other lads. Joleon Lescott hasn't trained yet."

Meanwhile, Gamboa is still being frustrated in his bid to join up with his teammates despite a successful work permit appeal.

"He had a meeting in Dusseldorf and the paperwork now has to be sent here then sent back again," said Irvine. "Then he will pick it up and come back again."

## Fighters earn their medals at world contest



Emma Bradley with sensei Audun Daniels and Mia Daniels who all had a successful championship

**FORTKNOCKS** Kimura Shukokai Karate club members have returned from the KSI World Karate Championships with a haul of medals.

Instructor Audun Daniels, 5th Dan, had an impressive championships and earned silver medals.

He took silver in the Men's Individual Kata (forms) which had more than 90 competitors and was narrowly pipped for the gold medal, and he also stormed to a great silver in

the Men's +90kg Kumite (fighting) category.

Emma Bradley continued to show her outstanding form and promising talent, adding to the two European gold medals last year in Finland.

She took two world Silver medals in the Girls Individual Kata and the Girls Individual Kumite Lightweight event.

Now aged 12, Emma started karate when she was nine and already

she has been in four international finals and won numerous national titles.

Mia Daniels also had a great competition, by adding bronze in the Girls Individual Heavyweight Kumite. Some great kicking and combination displays proved too much for her opponent for the Bronze and medal thoroughly was deserved.

All are now looking forward to their European championships.

## Firsts in fightback to grab the win

**Warwick & Worcester  
Premier Division 1  
NIFO 217**

**The George 221**

The First team came from behind to pick up another away win and improve their chances of clinching the runners up spot with a 4 shot victory at NIFO.

The George trailed by 14 shots after the first four despite wins by Mark Street (21-14) and Pete Davenport (21-19). In the middle four Marc Wilson (21-12), Paul Hemming (21-15) and Phil Clinton (21-18) reduced the deficit to two shots. The back four held their nerve with Steve Dicken (21-16), Ivan Smout (21-19) and Stewart Meddings (21-20) securing the victory.

**South Staffs Premier  
Division**

**The George 208  
Penn 194**

The second team recorded a 14-shot home win against a strong Penn side. Kevin Arnott (21-7), Steve Fagan and Darren Wood (both 21-12) the best of the seven winners.

**Warwick & Worcester  
Alliance Division 2**

**The Maggies 207  
The George 208**

The third team closed in on promotion with a one-shot away win at The Maggies. Bob Sansom's 21-4 swung the match.

## Albion add Walters to watch list

ALBION have added Stoke striker Jon Walters to their summer transfer watch list.

The Baggies are keeping tabs on the Ireland international as they look for attacking reinforcements.

The 30-year-old is on a lengthy list of potential signings as Irvine looks to beef up his forward line for the new Premier League season.

And, while they are not expected to make a move imminently for the former Ipswich forward, he could emerge as a target later in the transfer window.

Walters is a close friend of Baggies defender Gareth McAuley having played alongside him at Portman Road. Walters is under contract for another year.

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# SPORT

**Ideye gamble**  
Baggies boss set to  
test £10m signing  
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**Fighting fit**  
Karate club members  
haul in the awards  
**Page 35**



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## Sanchez signing is hit by wrangle

VILLA'S move for Elche midfielder Carlos Sanchez was still in the balance.

The 28-year-old defensive midfielder – nicknamed The Rock – was due into the Second City to sign a four-year deal.

However, a third-party ownership wrangle has complicated the deal and Villa are now assessing their options.

The Colombia international had been identified by Villa boss Paul Lambert as the man he wants to add some bite to his midfield.

And, if this last-minute hitch can be sorted out, the Villa boss looks to have secured Sanchez's capture ahead of the Premier League opener against Stoke on Saturday.

If the ownership issue can be overcome today, Sanchez will undergo his medical at Bodmoor Heath, with the club hopeful of completing the deal soon after.

No work permit issues are expected, given his 48 caps for Colombia including all four games at the World Cup in Brazil.

Sanchez spent the majority of his career playing in France, spending seven years with Valenciennes before moving to Spain in 2013.

He then made 30 La Liga appearances for Elche.

## Jodie to see off runners

DOUBLE Commonwealth Gold medal winner Jodie Stimpson will be an official starter at this year's Bupa Great Birmingham Run.

The 25-year-old from Oldbury, who won both individual and team triathlon golds for England at the Glasgow games, will be at the start line on Sunday October 19 to see off the waves of runners who will take on the 13.1 mile course.

Jodie said: "I'm delighted to have been asked to be involved in such a fantastic event like the Bupa Great Birmingham Run."

"Last year I ran it with my mum and I was amazed at the turn-out and the amount of support around the course. I look forward to this year being even better."

To join Jodie at the Bupa Great Birmingham Run, go to [www.greatrun.org/birmingham](http://www.greatrun.org/birmingham).

## Whiley aiming to make tennis history in NY

WIMBLEDON champion Jordanne Whiley, Gordon Reid and Andy Laphorne are all among the direct entries for the US Open Wheelchair Tennis Competition.

The trio of British players on the Tennis Foundation's Wheelchair Tennis Performance Programme return to contest each of the men's, women's and quad singles and doubles events at the final Grand Slam tournament of the year from 4th to 7th September.

After making her US Open debut in 2013, Whiley will return to New York this year aiming to make British tennis history, having

### Tennis

partnered Japan's Yui Kamiji to win the women's doubles at the Australian Open, Roland Garros and Wimbledon already this season.

Whiley, part of an elite field of eight women's players for the singles and doubles in New York, will be bidding to become the first Brit to win the same event at all four Grand Slams in the same calendar year.

Whiley and Kamiji will also bid to emulate Jiske Griffioen and Aniek van Koot,

who became the third all-Dutch partnership to win all four Grand Slam women's doubles titles in the same season in 2013, but finished runners-up to Whiley and Kamiji in Paris and at Wimbledon this season.

"It's been a remarkable year already and, after achieving a childhood dream becoming the first British woman to win a Grand Slam wheelchair tennis title at Wimbledon, I'm so excited for the opportunity me and Yui have to win the set of all four major titles," said Whiley, whose Wimbledon victory took her to No.2 in the women's doubles world rankings, directly behind Kamiji.

Reid and Laphorne made their US Open debuts in 2013, too, and both head to the USA this time on the back of reaching the men's singles and quad singles finals at the British Open, one of six Super Series tournaments that are the most important events on the UNIQUO Wheelchair Tennis Tour outside of the Grand Slams.

Reid reached the men's singles semi-finals in New York in 2013 and the world No.3 ranked Scot was also a singles semi-finalist and doubles finalist at Roland Garros in 2013 and a singles semi-finalist at Roland Garros this year.

## Cobblers stun the Wolves

**Wolves 2 Northampton 3**  
NORTHAMPTON stunned Wolves to dump them out of the Capital One Cup.

While Kenny Jackett's men dominated for long spells, the Cobblers finally ended their stranglehold.

Two-goal debutant Lawson D'Ath and Ivan Toney sent the League Two side through to the second round.

Nouha Dicko and Sam Ricketts had briefly levelled in a breathless nine-minute period which saw Wolves fight back from 2-0 down.

But it was the kiss of D'Ath for Wolves when the midfielder headed in the winner with 18 minutes left.

Northampton boss Chris Wilder has now lost only five of his 22 games in charge after taking the Cobblers off the bottom of League Two in January to Football League survival on the final day of last season. A 1-0 opening day win over Mansfield continued their rebuilding.

Wolves mirrored Northampton's result with their victory over Norwich on Sunday in the Championship. Eight changes from that game meant only Matt Doherty, Richard Stearman and Lee Evans stayed on.

## Lockmen let the lead slip away

**Willenhall 2 Gornal 2**  
WILLENHALL got off to the perfect start when Craig Sudlow scored after only five minutes.

In the 39th minute Jack Pottinger extended the lead.

However, Matt Vaughan powered home a header for Gornal from a flag-kick before Rion Francis-Mills poked home a leveller.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketterley, Telford, Thursday, August 14

## Halesowen Town 3 Black Country Rangers 2

### HALESOWEN completed their pre-season schedule with another victory after edging out Black Country Rangers.

Alex Hammond's early corner for Rangers was cleared by Asa Charlton and Hammond's direct 17th minute free-kick from 25 yards was turned over the bar by home goalkeeper Matt Sargeant.

Sargeant then collected low down after danger-man Hammond delivered a 27th minute free kick from the right wing.

But the Yeltz took the lead after 34 minutes when Neil Mackenzie let fly to fire home from the edge of the penalty area to leave goalkeeper Luke Tilt beaten.

### Collected

Phil McCurdy's low raking shot was collected by Sargeant after 37 minutes but Halesowen went close on two further occasions just before the interval Halesowen when MacKenzie placed a shot wide and Iyseden Christie headed just over the bar.

At the start of the second half Christie clattered the crossbar from the penalty spot in the 48th minute and missed his chance to double Yeltz's lead.

Rangers then equalised when trialist Cass Pangne converted their own penalty after Curtis Tilt brought down ex-Yeltz forward Justin Nisbett.

The visitors then snatched the lead through McCurdy's volley after

### Football

Hammond whipped over a 67th minute cross.

Five minutes later substitute goalkeeper Sam Pearson collected another McCurdy shot after he again combined well with Nisbett.

Mackenzie levelled the scores at 2-2 in the 77th minute for his second goal of the afternoon.

Chris Lait then completed the pre-season scoring and secured victory with an 80th minute low drive from MacKenzie's corner.

In the final minute Robert Thompson-Brown robbed Alex Norris to set up Tom Tonks, but his low drive was saved by the Rangers' goalkeeper.

**Halesowen:** Sargeant (Pearson 62); Green, Charlton, MacKenzie (Tonks HT), Kettle, C. Tilt (c), Bragoli (MacKenzie 75), Forde, Christie, Haseley

(Thompson-Brown 62), A. Griffiths (Lait HT).

**Rangers:** L. Tilt; Skelding (Duffield 70), Hammond, Lawson

(Flint 84), S. Griffiths (c) (Norris 54), Miles, Wellings (Fincher HT), Pardoe, Nisbett, McCurdy (Finley 81), Pangne.

## Blues break their home jinx in cup clash



Clayton Donaldson slots home for the Blues in their first home win since October 2013

**Blues 3 Cambridge Utd 1**  
BIRMINGHAM CITY finally broke their home jinx with a 3-1 Capital One Cup first round extra-time win over Cambridge United to chalk up their first success at St Andrew's since October 1.

Skipper Phil Caddis, who scored the vital goal in the final game at Bolton last season to keep Birmingham in the Championship, again came to Blues' rescue with a 95th-minute

strike. Newcomer Mark Duffy added a third 10 minutes later.

But Birmingham made hard work of their belated success after they had achieved an early break-through with the opening goal from Clayton Donaldson in the 16th minute.

Blues, however, were indebted a minute earlier to their Irish goalkeeper, Colin Doyle.

Twice in quick succession he saved from Kwesi Appiah and Adam Cun-

ningham but in Birmingham's next attack Caddis slipped a pass into the path of the unmarked Donaldson who slotted past goalkeeper Chris Dunn.

Cambridge, the League newcomers, competed well and Ryan Donaldson put the U's back on level terms in the 37th minute.

Five minutes into extra-time Caddis crashed a low shot through and Duffy added a third.

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